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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS



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19 January 1984

USSR REPORT MILITARY AFFAIRS

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MILITARY POLITICAL ISSUES

PARTY LIFE: REPORTS, ELECTIONS

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Nov 83 p 2

[Article by KRSNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lt Col M. Malygin: "Party Life: Reports and Elections: Intensifying the Offensive Spirit"]

[Text] "At first I thought I heard wrong," said WO [Praporshchik] A. Mazurenko. "I was walking along quietly and suddenly there was a low song, but one where every word was trite. I looked around and saw a group of soldiers in a far corner of the barracks. I went closer and, I was right, they were singing here. Pvt Trishkin was trying. Of course I expressed my opinion about his solo performance and interrupted the concert.

"Well, you did the right thing," remarked the unit party bureau secretary, Sr Lt O. Falileyev, "but just interrupting was not enough."

"Why do you say that? I also had a talk with the people," responded Mazurenko. "I tried to explain to them that there is a great deal behind such a lack of fastidiousness. This is not just a prank. A song affects how a person thinks about life and about his work..."

"That's it!" said Falileyev eagerly. "That is how we have to talk with the young people. Hot on the heels and persuasively. See the problem behind the facts and show them this interconnection."

"In general I believe that there must be a special discussion about spiritual culture in our soldier audience," said Maj V. Derenko, who was present at the discussion. "The Komsomol has to have its say here..."

"We have no objection," responded Komsomol committee member Lt A. Artyushenko. "But specifically what must our work consist of?"

"What if we hold a song night?" suggested Mazurenko. "We'll begin by telling about the incident with Pvt Trishkin. We'll discuss the role of the art of singing and about developing taste. Let the soldiers speak out and express their opinions and let there be good, meaningful songs sung, with commentary by the master of ceremonies..."

Other suggestions came quick and fast.

"This is quite a different turn," remarked Falileyev with satisfaction. "I feel that our plans for ideological and mass political work will be enriched."

What happened further can be learned from the accountability report given by the party bureau secretary.

"Through the party organization's initiative the collective began to devote more attention to a creative exploration in ideological conditioning and in the moral and esthetic indoctrination of our personnel," said Sr Lt Falileyev. "What is important to note here is that the offensive spirit of indoctrinational measures has picked up."

He told how Komsomol meetings about the active position in life by a Komsomol member were held with the participation of party members and how there was very sharp criticism at these meetings of instances where some soldiers were passive in social life and instances of falsely understood comradeship. Emphasis in lectures devoted to military discipline was placed on an analysis of the state of affairs and on mutual relationships in the collective where the lecturer was appearing, and the lectures debunked certain erroneous views existing about so-called "petty" violations. And with regard to the "song theme," such an evening was held, it attracted everyone and one can say that the personnel's senses received a good charge. By the way, after that there somehow was a noticeable change in people's attitude toward amateur activities and there began to be more persons desiring to participate in them. There also was a competitive review later which evoked interest in the entire collective.

It is apparent just from this that the party organization did not simply react promptly to the problem at hand; it persistently undertook a solution, and one on an offensive note.

The words "offensive spirit" are becoming more and more customary in the party collective. Following the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee Plenum this concept acquired special definition here and became an important criterion for the effectiveness of agitprop activities and the party members' political work as well as their actions. The report, for example, mentioned the following facts.

One evening WO A. Min'ko decided to cheer up his colleagues with an anecdote. Capt A. Smirnov was nearby. After interrupting the warrant officer the party member held a conversation about the fact that what is at first glance a "rather jovial" story contains a very dubious implication. The people immediately saw a side of the "inoffensive tale" previously hidden to them.

"The party demands that ideological work be a job for every party member, which means that genuine party bellicosity must be a trait of each of us," said WO A. Mazurenko at the report-election meeting.

It is understandable that the sharply growing aggressiveness of imperialism and the unbridled lies by which bourgeois propaganda attempts to besmirch socialism's ideas and achievements must be mercilessly debunked by propagandists and

agitators. The unit is doing much in this area as well. The subject matter of political briefings has become more topical. Political study group instructors constantly turn to events of international life. The verbal journal "The World Today" which is given for servicemen and members of their families has gained popularity. Each of its productions is illustrated by scenes from documentary films.

But what is the basis of such an ability of the organizers of mass political work and propagandists to conduct a discussion without avoiding acute issues and while fighting that which is alien to us and is blocking our path? It is a profound Marxist-Leninist training, general erudition, free use of knowledge and an ability to think polemically and be conclusive. Unfortunately some party members lack this ability. This explains, for example, that Sr Lt S. Avdonin and Lt A. Loban at times had difficulty in conversing with people and would avoid answers to their questions. We must ponder, said Sr Lt G. Solomatin in his speech at the meeting, how to increase the acuteness and persuasiveness of our counterpropaganda presentations and how we can best learn to do this.

Maj A. Gusev touched on the other side of this topic.

"Offensive spirit also has to be displayed more strongly in our discussion with people about daily affairs and about mistakes and omissions," he said. "Of course, we have experience but we mustn't flatter ourselves over it. Deficiencies do not always evoke our sharp reaction. We are not always able to charge up people with irreconcilability toward irresponsibility and lack of discipline..."

Both the strengths and weaknesses of the party organization's influence are seen in relief in this regard. For example, one subunit was helped to emerge from a hitch in work. Things were not going well there with equipment upkeep. The personnel would service it carelessly. The party bureau suggested holding a Komsomol meeting in the subunit and the sentiment was to evaluate the Komsomol members by name. The meeting was stormy and was of great benefit. The satirical wall newspaper also was used. It was suggested to the leaders of technical circles that they not only must talk about parts, assemblies and units in the classes, but also about the people--the conscientious and careless, those who love equipment and those who are indifferent toward it.

There was, of course, an improvement. Nevertheless, this did not happen always or everywhere. People ignored the fulfillment of socialist competition pledges for a certain time and this had an effect on the year's finale.

It would appear to be impossible to ignore the following instance as well, which also was mentioned during the report-election meeting. It uniquely highlights one other facet of offensive spirit. Company rationalizers headed by WO A. Vasilenko designed an electrified display, calling it "One hundred answers in special training." The neighboring subunits were indifferent to the innovation. Their attitude was that there was nothing special here and they had their own methodology of training to which they would adhere. Party bureau

members thought otherwise. Having taken an interest in the display they soon became convinced of its effectiveness. They did not stop there and decided to adopt the useful matter everywhere and see to it that the display was present in every subunit. All this was not so simple. They had to argue and prove. Now everything is behind them and the innovation noticeably accelerated time periods and improved the quality of specialist training. This fact perhaps is not on such a large scale but I am sure it shows graphically that offensive spirit includes spirit, persistence and purposefulness in establishing something foremost.

And one other thing. The names of Capt V. Nikolaychuk, Capt A. Zaytsev and certain other comrades who largely perform incomplete work were mentioned at the meeting. The briefer referred repeatedly to a panel hung not far from the rostrum containing the names of party members with disciplinary punishments. Here is the relationship of this to our subject: A person must have a moral right for taking a position with offensive spirit, and the word must not deviate from the deed.

6904

CSO: 1801/106

ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

Housing Administration Neglects Repairs

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Oct 83 p 2

[Letter from Sr Lt A. Groza, Order of Lenin Transbaykal Military District:
"Roofers Against Their Will"]

[Text] The idea of writing this letter came to mind not only because I was a chance witness of a callous attitude toward people. The main reason was that these people lost their faith in the possibility for correcting a bad situation. One can imagine how many complaints were written, how many thresholds were worn and how many promises were heard by the residents of one of the homes in our garrison! But even if we were to read all of the complaints, even so we could hardly match the depressing impression one gets from visiting, for example, the apartment occupied by seven officers--I. Akimkin, A. Kochetkov, I. Mel'nik and others.

But could it be that the chief of the rayon's housing operation administration, Lieutenant Colonel S. Yaroshenko, is unaware of the decomposing plaster and of the interruptions in water and electric power supply? He knows about this, but in a recent conversation with residents of the unfortunate home he declared that they could write anywhere they wished, but "this would not change anything."

And so, almost every day one of the officers has been climbing up to the roof during the lunch break to try to patch the holes. This is not the first time officers have become roofers against their will. But the results of their work are poor: They have neither the knowledge nor the skills.

Here is an interesting note: Recently the old wooden fence around our residential complex was replaced by a fabulous reinforced concrete wall. And it was built very quickly, by the way. A directive was published, and immediately the money, the materials and the manpower were found. This is the sort of response needed in relation to repairing the home in which my fellow servicemen live.

Naval Career vs Romance

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Oct 83 p 2

[Article: "Both a Vocation and a Love"]

[Text] The last issue of AZIMUT carried a letter by Anna Ye., "Vocation or Love." Anna said that her friend Vasiliy, whom she loves sincerely, decided to enroll in a naval school after serving in the navy. This forced Anna to move to a new city and to transfer to another institute. However, our reader wrote, Vasiliy could also have enrolled in a military school in their own city, and all the more so in the same school in which Anna's uncle serves. She put the question in the following way: Whom does her friend love--her or the sea? She asked for advice on what to do. The editor's office received several dozen responses to this letter. Here are excerpts from some of the letters.

"It is evident from the letter that Vasiliy is a man of character, one who makes firm decisions and is able to pursue a goal. Even though he knew how difficult naval service is from his own experience, he nonetheless selected the profession of a naval officer. Such persons deserve trust and respect. And love as well, Anna."

Major V. Prokopchuk

"I am serving in the twice-awarded Red Banner Baltic Fleet and I know how difficult the work of officers is, and how many difficulties befall upon their wives.

"I do not wish to insult you, Anna, but you already care too much for spiritual calm, comfort and conveniences. I think it would be hard for you to become a real military friend of an officer."

Seaman O. Pushkareva

"I dreamed of becoming a military pilot from childhood. I persuaded myself that nothing would stand in my way, and I forced my girlfriend to believe this as well. And suddenly my life took an abrupt turn: I could not enroll in aviation school because of my health. I was fearful of admitting this to Olya. But she did not become disenchanted with me. I got a job at a construction project, and then I enrolled in a military construction school. Olya and I are living a happy life. I wish you, Anna, and your Vasiliy, so faithful to his vocation and his love, happiness as well."

Cadet S. Farshanev

"I have five sons. Following the example of my husband, the oldest decided on the profession of an officer, to study in school. My husband had served

in the army for over a quarter of a century. One can imagine how many garrisons fate brought us in contact with--we have traveled the country from one end to the other. I helped my husband in his difficult service, so needed by the motherland, in every way I could."

K. Dovgan'

"I would prefer to write Vasiliy rather than Anna. Remember, Vasiliy, that an officer needs a very dependable 'rear', he needs the understanding and trust of his family. Will you have it?"

Lieutenant O. Petrov

"I envy you, Anna! I long so much to meet, in my life, a person as strong of character and as purposeful as Vasiliy. So far, I have not."

Student A. Beyshembiyeva

Follow-Up to Reader Complaints

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Oct 83 p 2

[Article: "Measures Implemented in Response to Readers' Complaints"]

[Text] Because of deficiencies in organizing the work-rest schedule, and because of the absence of due concern for the personal needs of the soldiers, a situation unfavorable to high-quality fulfillment of production quotas evolved in the military construction detachment which had been commanded until recently by Major. V. Aganin. This was the subject of a letter sent to KRSNAYA ZVEZDA.

Engineer-Colonel Mishchenko has informed the editor's office that an inspection confirmed the facts cited in the letter. The enlisted dining hall has now been repaired, the daily schedule has been put in order, and military builders have been strictly prohibited from working on days off in the military construction detachment. Detachment commander Major V. Aganin and his deputy for supply, Major V. Chebotarenko, were retired into the reserves for their mistakes. Major A. Bozhetkov, the detachment chief of staff, was demoted.

Reader S. Komarov wrote a letter expressing his perplexity with the fact that the garrison's military builders did not spare surrounding trees when they built a vegetable storehouse.

The editor's office asked Officer G. Shchurevich to check up on this critical complaint. The military builders did in fact cause damage to plants, for which the chief of the construction and installation section, Engineer-Senior Lieutenant I. Mikhalev, was strictly reprimanded. However, the reply to the

complaint stated that our reader's alarm was "a little exaggerated." The garrison chief was obviously not touched by the following lines in the letter: "When you have planted a tree or a shrub with your own hands, every blow of the axe causes pain in the heart." While we share this pain, we would like to know whether or not the builders have replaced the killed trees.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA mail often contains praise for the activities of military trade workers. But letters of different content arrive as well. "In our unit," states one of them, "the military trade store exists only nominally, if I may be permitted to phrase it that way. You can't even buy the basic necessities there."

This criticism was deemed just in a reply to the editor's office signed by Engineer-Colonel Andreyev. In order to satisfy the demands of customers the store has opened an industrial goods section, and an enlisted tea room has begun operating in the garrison.

Facts indicating that the level of military discipline in the subunit commanded by Officer A. Skvortsov was not keeping up with growing requirements were presented in one of the letters to the editor.

The unit's chief of political affairs reported to us that the reader's anxious complaint was checked out locally. Company commander A. Skvortsov was strictly punished for errors made in political indoctrination. The company chief, Senior Warrant Officer S. Solov'yev and Junior Sergeant S. Konovalov, a detachment commander, were dismissed from their posts. Other measures were implemented as well.

Soldiers' Non-Military Work Illegal

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Oct 83 p 2

[Article Capt 1st Rank A. Slobozhanyuk, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent: "Dacha Caretakers Against Their Will"]

[Text] "Dear Editor! My enlistment is coming to an end, and I am sorry that I was unable to decide to write about this sooner. The problem is that soldiers of our subunit are working more outside the unit and learning military affairs less. Several times on orders from the subunit commander, Major B. Pavlyuk, we cultivated gardens at dachas, spread fertilizer, dug cellars, and worked at a toy factory in which Major Pavlyuk's wife serves as director. Many times we had to unload foodstuffs at delicatessens, and especially frequently at Store No 57. In a word, we were 'specialists of a broad profile.' Everything was done on the sly, without too much talk: We were driven off in the morning, and we were driven back before taps. Whenever we questioned Major Pavlyuk about this,

he always replied that everything was being done in behalf of the subunit's interests. Of course, a commander does know better how to distribute his personnel. But in our subunit things are far from the way they should be, and sometimes we do not sense true concern for people...."

Private V. Kulikov

The editor's office sent this letter to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's permanent correspondent for the Pacific Fleet. Here is what he reported:

I was told the following story at the subunit. Private Yu. Potapov was awakened at three in the morning. A short time later he left the unit in a truck. The transport work ticket indicated a destination outside the city. The cargo was described as "Property of the unit." Senior Lieutenant V. Zhukovskiy was the vehicle chief.

"Why did unit property have to be trucked to an area zoned for dachas?" I asked some time later.

It turned out that assistance had to be rendered to a certain "person very much needed to the subunit" who was working at, of all places, the marine port. It turned out that he was supposedly helping the unit get scarce materials. As an example he helped the unit get shears to cut wire. Who needed these tools in the subunit, and why they had to be obtained by private means, no one was able to find out. Nor, incidentally, was anybody able to find out the name of this "needed" person.

The subunit deputy commander, who is also the secretary of the party organization, Captain V. Urayev, was unable to recall this trip, or many others for that matter. And when I began relating facts known to me from the letter to the party secretary, on those days he was either on leave or on a temporary duty assignment. Naturally, then, he could not have witnessed such facts.

Once for example white Zhigulis rolled up to the entrance. After Junior Sergeant V. Budyuk and privates S. Abdulayev, M. Rakhmatov and T. Muloyanov took their seats, the cars sped off for a dacha belonging to a civilian unknown to me. The soldiers cultivated a garden and spread mulch late into the evening.

Sometimes the "dacha caretakers against their will," as soldiers sourly referred to themselves, were even picked up by the busload. The owners of the dachas asked the soldiers to remove their uniforms so that neighbors would think that these were their sons that had come to help. Nor was the party secretary informed of the fact that in response to the first phone call from the director of Store No 57, the soldiers rushed to the other end of the city to unload incoming goods. Captain Urayev is unaware of how bitterly the soldiers expressed their embarrassment in having to drag boxes of vodka around. But Captain Urayev had heard that his soldiers had been working as hotel employees. The same old words were uttered in justification:

"All of this was done in behalf of the subunit's interests...."

Thus it turns out from Captain Urayev's words that regular work at the toy factory was also in the subunit's interests. For half a year Senior Lieutenant V. Lenchevskiy maintained a sort of a chronicle documenting the instances where soldiers were taken away from their duties to work in various civilian institutions. According to his far from complete count, soldiers were sent out for "seasonal work" 16 times during this period. The author of the letter to the editor was right: Major Pavlyuk was able to find the most diverse applications of the strengths and capabilities of subordinates during work time, and of course to the detriment of the work.

The letter's author validly complains of poorly organized leisure time in the subunit. Sports functions, cultural trips to museums and movies are in fact organized rarely here. Moreover, when is there ever time here for organized leisure, if in the suburban zone there are so many dachas with owners requiring young, strong hands that can work a shovel well? The telephone may ring at any moment, and the stern voice of a delicatessen worker demands people to unload goods. The subunit's duty officers have been instructed clearly: Such an "input" must be fulfilled immediately.

I think that the facts revealed in the subunit commanded by Major Pavlyuk will be given a principled assessment by the higher staff.

Neglect of Reserve Officer Punishable

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Oct 83 p 2

[Article: "'Callousness'"]

[Text] Such was the title of a letter written by Major (Reserve) V. Volkov, published 26 June together with a commentary written by our permanent correspondent for the Carpathian Military District, Lieutenant Colonel A. Bedzhanyan. The topic was the unattentive, bureaucratic attitude displayed by staff officer Major V. Korostov toward an officer of a certain unit being retired into the reserves.

The chief of the political section reported to the editor's office that the facts presented in the letter were confirmed. The newspaper article was discussed with the unit commanders and their deputies for political affairs. Steps were taken to keep such shortcomings from arising in the future. A "Veteran of the USSR Armed Forces" medal was sent to the place of residence of Major A. Volkov, to the Arzamasskiy Rayon Military Commissariat with a request to organize presentation of this decoration to the veteran.

By order of the formation commander, Major V. Korostov was subjected to disciplinary punishment for his careless attitude toward official duties.

Sports Club Executive Discharged

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Oct 83 p 2

[Article: "'Under Assumed Names'"]

[Text] Published with this title in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on 24 August, this letter to the editor by Engineer-Captain Yu. Ryzhikov revealed facts attesting to the abuse of official position, unfair dealings and deceit on the part of Warrant Officer A. Barakhta, leader of the hand-to-hand combat section of the army sports club of the Kiev Military District.

Major General N. Pogodin, chief of the political section of the staff and directorate of the Kiev Military District, reported that Warrant Officer A. Barakhta was expelled from the CPSU, in which he was a candidate, he was stripped of his rank of warrant officer and he was dismissed from the Soviet Army for abuse of official position, deceit in organizing food for the sportsmen and forgery in association with making up his teams. He has replaced the 369 rubles damages suffered by the state.

Communists Lieutenant Colonel V. P'yanykh, chief of physical training and sports of the Kiev Military District, Lieutenant Colonel V. Zarutskiy, chief of the army sports club, and his deputy for political affairs Captain V. Lysyy were ordered to make reports in the political section of the staff and the district's directorate. They were all strictly punished for serious deficiencies in selection and indoctrination of sports team trainers and chiefs.

The following communists were subjected to serious criticism in a party meeting of the district sports club: army sports club deputy chief Major V. Antonov, senior trainer Major V. Bus'ko and trainer Lieutenant K. Bass.

The critical article in the newspaper was discussed at an expanded meeting of the army sports club's training council.

Motor Vehicles Carelessly Maintained

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Oct 83 p 2

[Article: "'Still No Changes'"]

[Text] This was the title of a critical article written by our permanent correspondent for the Central Asian Military District, Major A. Ladin, and published on 24 July. The topic was shortcomings in servicing and maintenance of combat equipment of a certain unit--a consequence of a careless attitude toward official duties on the part of a number of officials, particularly Major V. Sannikov, the chief of the regiment's motor vehicle service.

The chief of the political section reported to the editor's office that the criticism was found to be correct. Communist A. Kornev, who was responsible for monitoring the use and maintenance of equipment, was subjected to strict

party punishment. Communist Major V. Sannikov was ordered to give a report to the formation's political section, and he was subjected to party punishment.

The question as to raising personal responsibility of communists for improving the quality of the technical condition and maintenance of combat equipment was discussed at an open party meeting of the unit and in a meeting of the party committee.

Improper Equipment Use Ended

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15 Oct 83 p 2

[Article: "'Television for Two'"]

[Text] This was the title of a letter to the editor written by Lieutenant Colonel F. Fedoryshin and published on 21 August. The topic was improper use of cultural education equipment in some subunits. Lieutenant Colonel V. Petrakovskiy reported to the editor's office that the formation's political section inspected the condition and use of cultural education equipment in all of the units and subunits. The results of the inspection were discussed at a conference of political workers. All cultural education equipment was repaired and issued to the subunits, and permanent surveillance was established over its use.

Training Deficiencies Corrected

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Oct 83 p 2

[Article: "'Failure'"]

[Text] A critical article by Major A. Petrov published with this title on 2 August discussed shortcomings in the organization of combat training, and particularly the night training of personnel of a certain regiment in the Southern Group of Forces.

Colonel I. Ovcharov, the deputy chief of the group of forces' political directorate, reported to the editor that the shortcomings noted in the article were discussed at a conference of the unit officers. The need for intensifying control and assistance to the subunits in organizing combat and political training was pointed out to the regiment command.

Battalion commander Communist Major A. Novokshonov gave a report at a meeting of the unit's party committee, during which he was given strict orders to improve the quality of personnel training.

11004

CSO: 1801/054

ARMED FORCES

INTERVIEW WITH PM-9 PISTOL DESIGNER MAKAROV

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Nov 83 p 2

[Interview with Hero of Socialist Labor, Twice-Honored State Prize Laureate Nikolay Fedorovich Makarov by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lt Col A. Garavskiy in response to letter to editors by Jr Sgt N. Silin and Cadet V. Sokolov: "Meetings at Your Request: Be Daring in Your Youth!"; date and place of interview not given]

[Text] Recently we accomplished a pistol firing exercise. It was the first time we fired but the result was good. After the class we began talking among ourselves and found out we knew very little about the designer of the PM-9 pistol.

"Azimuth" previously told about notable Soviet small arms designers M. T. Kalashnikov and S. G. Simonov. Is it possible to arrange a meeting with N. F. Makarov as well?

Jr Sgt N. Silin
Cadet V. Sokolov

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lt Col A. Garavskiy acquainted Nikolay Fedorovich Makarov, Hero of Socialist Labor and Twice-Honored USSR State Prize laureate, with this letter and asked him to answer questions of interest to future officers.

[Question] The first question, Nikolay Fedorovich, is a traditional one: How did you become a weapon designer?

[Answer] As a youth my dreams were connected with the railroad. This came from my father, a locomotive engineer who was proud of his work. There was a strict upbringing in our family. When there are six children it probably can't be otherwise. In any case, I was permitted my first independent purchase only during studies at a railroad school. I made two rationalization

proposals and received a reward in the name of the People's Commissariat of Railways. Father consulted with Mother and they agreed that I could do with the money what I liked. I disappointed my parents by purchasing a small-caliber rifle. It turns out that my soul was not indifferent to weapons as well.

After receiving a working specialty I worked several years as a repair mechanic, as a brigade leader in the railroad depot of the city of Sasovo, and later went over to a locomotive as assistant engineer. I worked with determination on self-education as I wanted to study in an institute. I took exams for a workers' faculty as an external student. Later came studies at the Tula Mechanical Institute, which was a bright time in my life. I also found time for serious sports activities and became weightlifting champion of Tula Oblast. I became accustomed to scientific work. Life suggested the subjects of research. World War II was going on in Europe and together with comrades I developed drawings of a percussion-action hand grenade.

The Great Patriotic War found us students of the graduating class in pre-diploma work. There no longer was an occasion to defend a diploma project. In June 1941 I was sent to a plant producing the PPSH [Shpagin submachinegun] as a shift foreman.

A meeting with the submachinegun's creator Georgiy Semenovitch Shpagin signified a great deal in my career. I once entered the shop and saw Georgiy Semenovitch concocting something over a pile of recoil springs.

"I'm choosing the more reliable ones," he explained.

"Perhaps we should compute them first?" I asked, feeling timid before the well-known inventor.

"Compute?" asked Shpagin, looking carefully at me. "Can you do it?"

"I can!"

It obviously has to be explained that Georgiy Semenovitch, a person with surprising technical intuition and golden hands, did not have an engineering education and would resort to the cut-and-try method where it was possible to have mathematics as an ally.

Soon I brought Shpagin a spring made in conformity with the technical assignment and Georgiy Semenovitch remarked with satisfaction:

"That's what I need."

On Shpagin's recommendation I was appointed the plant's chief designer for the PPSH. For several years I was responsible for following the manufacturing process in making the submachinegun. And I received a diploma for completion of the Institute (which by the way was a red diploma) in 1945.

[Question] Nikolay Fedorovich, when and how did you create the PM-9 pistol"

[Answer] A contest was announced after the Great Patriotic War for creation of a new pistol. Designers were informed of the tactical and technical specifications it was to meet. The caliber, 9 mm, also was determined, in contrast to the caliber of the TT [Tokarev Tula] pistol of frontline times, 7.62 mm. I decided to participate in creating the new close-combat weapon.

The task was not a simple one. I would arrive at the KB [design bureau] by eight in the morning and leave at one or two o'clock at night. I developed and tested or, as the designers say, fired numerous models, each time discovering certain deficiencies. I can't help but say that I and all other contest participants were given enormous support by Igor' Fedorovich Dmitriyev, chief of the design bureau.

Plant experience suggested to me that as with any other mass-produced weapon, the new pistol had to be technologically feasible, i.e., convenient to manufacture. The 9 mm cartridge would allow employing a very basic principle of automatic operation--blow-back of an unlocked breech mechanism. This is the path I took. In the final account the pistol was lighter and more compact than the previous TT. With a medium grip it contained a magazine of the very same capacity while the fixed barrel and safety contributed to a good aim. Later during testing the specialists' interest was aroused by the hammer and trigger assembly with a self-cocking device permitting the first round to be fired without first cocking the weapon.

But I have gotten ahead of myself. Many well-known armorers were participating in the contest, including F. V. Tokarev, S. G. Semenov, S. A. Korovin and P. V. Voyevodin. Possibly not all cadets know the conditions under which new models of weapons are tested. Conditions are the most rigid. Pistols would be filled with sand, placed in swamp water, then lubricated thickly and washed clean in gasoline. They were subjected to a temperature change of up to 100 degrees: from minus 40 to plus 60. A weapon had to withstand 3,000 shots.

After all "ordeals" the PM [9-mm Makarov pistol] remained faultless. Twice as many rounds were fired with it as planned. After careful comparison with all data the state commission recognized this model as the contest winner.

That day was a holiday for me, and holidays don't occur very often in the career of a designer.

[Question] But your first design development was the winner.

[Answer] That isn't so. I already said that I was defending a diploma project just before the war ended. Well, I submitted a model of a submachinegun for the 1943 cartridge as the project. The project was declared realistic and meriting attention, but by that time a submachinegun for a more powerful cartridge already had been made operational. But the experience of working on this weapon came in handy for me. It can be said that the first failure tempered my character.

[Question] Your name is linked with a pistol which has been in the inventory for more than 30 years. It is rare that someone knows that you also designed other weapons.

[Answer] There should not be unexpected assignments for a small arms designer, and we consider ourselves military people. One must be ready for any work. Once I received the task of exploring the possibility of increasing the rate of fire of the 23-mm aircraft cannon, which was required by jet aviation. I explored the reserves. The rate of fire of the cannon known as the AM-23 was 1,200-1,300 rounds per minute. This aviation weapon also is in the category of the long-lived.

I also had occasion to take part in the work to create antitank guided missiles, the principle of action of which is very far both from the pistol and from the aviation cannon.

[Question] Nikolay Fedorovich, it appears that the authors of the letter to the editors expect some kind of advice from you.

[Answer] Life has convinced me that the only person who can be happy is one who has given people everything of which he is capable. In order to use up the "battle reserve" which nature has presented to you, you must live fervently and set high goals for yourself.

My advice to future officers is to be daring in your youth!

6904

CSO: 1801/104

ARMED FORCES

EDITORIAL EMPHASIZES MASTERING COMBAT WEAPONS, EQUIPMENT

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Nov 83 p 1

[Editorial: "Maintain Combat Equipment in Exemplary Fashion"]

[Text] The material-technical base of our Armed Forces constantly is being renewed thanks to the steadfast concern of the Communist Party and Soviet government for strengthening the country's defenses and assuring reliable protection of socialism's achievements. The present-day combat equipment and weapons, which comprise the material basis of the Army and Navy's combat readiness, permit the successful accomplishment of the most difficult operational training missions on the ground, in the air and at sea. It is the duty of Soviet soldiers to know their entrusted weapons and equipment to perfection, maintain them in exemplary fashion and use them skillfully.

The effectiveness of combat employment of weapons and equipment depends largely on the quality with which they are serviced, observance of the procedure and rules for operation and repair, and timeliness and completeness of material-technical and metrological support. In accomplishing these tasks together with staffs, services, engineering-technical personnel and the party and Komsomol organizations, the commanders of many subunits achieved noticeable success in the training year which has ended. Final inspections, field firings at ranges, missile launches, aviators' actions and sea deployments have shown that as a rule the sophisticated equipment and weapons are being kept in good condition and are in reliable hands.

Responsibility for the organization of upkeep, servicing and operation of combat and other equipment is placed on the commander. As prescribed by the USSR Armed Forces Interior Service Regulation, he is obligated to know the procedure for operation and repair of equipment and weapons and take steps for their preservation and for keeping them in a serviceable condition. The level of the personnel's technical training and the status of equipment and weapons depend on the commander's ability to assure the coordinated work of his deputies and chiefs of services and to organize the training and indoctrination process correctly in his subunit, unit or ship.

The enormous tactical capabilities and the complexity and collective nature of operating modern equipment and weapons quite obviously demand specialists'

detailed technical knowledge and coordinated actions, and each one's high personal responsibility for fulfilling functional duties and assuring high combat readiness of his subunit, unit or ship. Many years of experience and results of the last inspections convince us that greatest success is being achieved in this where the struggle for detailed study and excellent servicing and upkeep of equipment and the other training tasks are being accomplished in close, integral unity with indoctrinational tasks.

Take for example guards surface-to-air missile regiment "X" where Gds Engr-Lt Col A. Khilov is deputy commander for weapons. The commander, his deputies, chiefs of services and the party and Komsomol organizations constantly keep a focus on matters of improving servicemen's technical knowledge and developing in them a thrifty attitude and love for the equipment. Military-technical propaganda is conducted actively and purposefully here, the struggle for exemplary upkeep of missile systems is skillfully arranged, and there is well-adjusted rationalization work aimed at improving the training facility and searching for means and techniques which improve the upkeep and operation of combat equipment. All the regiment's subunits have mastered successfully the so-called rational system of maintenance permitting a significant reduction in the time needed to check and monitor missile system parameters and, of no less importance, economize on their expected life. The following facts indicate how effectively training and indoctrination work aimed at exemplary upkeep of combat equipment is arranged in the unit: It invariably has been given the highest grade over a period of more than 20 years for performance of missile firings at the range and it has held the title of outstanding for many years.

The level of combat equipment upkeep and full use of the capabilities it contains depend to a significant extent on the quality with which periodic technical servicing is performed. The diversity and great volume of this work requires careful planning, precise organization, faultless coordination, high discipline and execution of all specialists. The fact that it is being done during the cold time of year is a feature in the organization of periodic technical servicing in the present period. Now it is important to conclude promptly all measures connected with preparation of equipment for conditions of winter operation.

Servicing days hold an important place among the preventive measures aimed at exemplary upkeep of equipment and weapons. In organizing them one must thoroughly plan the extent of work which must be performed by particular groups of specialists, correctly allocate people and supplies, and provide for socialist competition and supervision of the personnel's actions. It is necessary to plan very thoroughly and perform work assuring fire safety at every facility in connection with the onset of cold weather.

Army and Navy specialists gained abundant experience in operating and maintaining equipment under the most varied conditions during socialist competition in the past training year. Military inventors and rationalizers made a large contribution toward improving the effectiveness of its use and operating characteristics. We must study this experience carefully and see to it that it becomes the property of all units.

As practical experience shows, success in assuring exemplary care of combat equipment is achieved with the integrated use of activities affecting its condition and with quality performance of each of these activities. Much depends here on the purposefulness of party-political work. It is important for party influence on personnel to be exercised continuously, bear an effective character, and that assurance of the leading role of party and Komsomol members in mastering, servicing and operating equipment is constantly within view of party and Komsomol organizations.

Exemplary upkeep and skilled operation of combat equipment and weapons are a necessary condition for ensuring their reliability and maintaining high, constant combat readiness of subunits, units and ships.

6904

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ARMED FORCES

COMPETITION BETWEEN TWO REGIMENTS DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 15, 16, 17 Nov 83

[Article by Col. N. Kalmykov and Col V. Nagornyy: "Aligning the Formation" under the rubric "Notes on Regimental Competition"]

[15 November 1983 p 2]

[Text] KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported that the Guards Anti-Aircraft Missile Smolensk Red Banner, Orders of Suvarov, Kutuzov and Bogdan Khmel'nitskiy Air Defense Regiment, the initiator of socialist competition in the Air Defense Forces, completed the training year in a worthy manner. Training plans and programs and group commitments were completely fulfilled. The competition between the Smolensk missilemen and personnel of the anti-aircraft missile unit commanded by Lieutenant Colonel N. Antonov, which also successfully fulfilled its commitments, contributed to the achievement of these successes, along with other factors.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA is beginning the publication of commentary on the competition between the two regiments.

1. The Organizing Element

We shall begin by saying that this is not the first year of competition between these anti-aircraft missile regiments. There is probably no one in the regiments who recalls which of them was first to suggest initiating the rivalry. Reality actually suggested it to the personnel. The regiments are similar and they perform the same missions of guarding the homeland's skies. The missilemen therefore always had a natural, mutual interest in the affairs, the achievements and experience of the other regiment. This interest generated a desire on the part of each regiment to match forces with the other, to gain something new for itself, to assist the other regiment.

Over a long period of time a sort of traditional system has developed in the competition between the two regiments, which contributes to the successful fulfillment of the assigned missions. This past training year, however, the rivalry took on a qualitatively new aspect. Personnel of the Smolensk regiment, which

is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel V. Nechayev and which initiated competition in the Air Defense Forces, decided to take a new and important step in their combat improvement. They accepted large commitments. And it was only natural that the Guardsmen would challenge their rivals of long standing, fightingmen of the unit commanded by Lieutenant Colonel I. Antonov, to compete.

Many months have gone by since then. Officer Antonov's men still recall how carefully they studied the commitments of the Guardsmen, however, how thoroughly they compared those commitments with their own and how many heated arguments there were about the capabilities they possessed. They also recall how they struggled to reach the decision that their own pride and the regimental honor bound them, every one of them, to work especially vigorously and diligently, to find the greatest possible number of reserves and put them to work in order to equal the Guardsmen. And the challenge was accepted.

Now that both regiments have successfully fulfilled their commitments, we can say with confidence that the competition between them contributed greatly to the quality accomplishment of the combat training missions, the moral improvement of the men and the unification of the military collectives. It reflected first of all the great political enthusiasm produced in the personnel by decisions coming out of the November 1982 and June 1983 Plenums of the CPSU Central Committee and their patriotic desire to implement those decisions. It can also be stated with confidence that the purposive, active work performed by the higher headquarters and political organ also played an important role. They directed the efforts of the rivals in a planned and purposive manner, coordinated their work and provided conditions conducive to the performance of creative and productive work by the personnel.

The experience of past years showed that planning had been extremely important in the supervision of the competition between the regiments. When the overall plan was compiled this time the maximum degree of creativity was embodied in it, and the specific features of each unit and the specific nature of the competition for the current training year were taken into thorough account. There is no need to enumerate all the points contained in the plan. We would point out that it specified the time and the procedure for exchanging delegations, defined the rivalry among the best combat crews and called for inspections of the training materials base, visual agitation and the exchange of experience in the training and indoctrinational work of commanders, party and Komsomol organizations. We would like to especially stress the fact that the realization of the most important focuses of the plan was monitored by specially designated officers.

We talked with one of the officers, Lieutenant Colonel I. Yevdokhin. He had the following to say:

"Throughout the training year we had various comparative indices describing the training of the subunits in both units. They graphically described how the alert duty and the drills were being performed and how the commitments were being fulfilled. The information was constantly updated. When exercises were conducted on the equipment for the record, when a comprehensive drill was completed, when a staff officers visited the unit, we immediately received the information for study and summarization. You will have to agree that it is not too difficult

with this kind of current information at hand to promptly detect a breakdown in the training of some subunit or some "bottleneck" and to react promptly and effectively."

We would like to add the following to what Lieutenant Colonel Yevdokhin has said. The individuals who monitored the competition not only kept their finger on the pulse of the units but also helped the commanders and political workers to make the competition more vital and effective, increased their methodological skills and prevented them from making mistakes.

For many years one set of methods was used in both units for developing coordination among specialists at the tactical control level. It made it possible to practice the training elements precisely and systematically and brought a fairly stable level of special training for the personnel. The large goals set for the competition, however, made it necessary to improve the training quality and reduce the amount of time required to complete the tasks and meet the standards. The system of methods in use could not fully meet the increased demands.

The officers at superior headquarters arrived at this conclusion. A new set of methods was developed and introduced, based on the comprehensive performance of the combat training tasks. Improved results were soon apparent in the unit commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Antonov. This was not true of its rival, however. What was the matter? It was discovered that the new methods had simply not taken hold among the Guardsmen. They preferred the old methods to the new system, since they had long since demonstrated their effectiveness; they were familiar and did not require the acquisition of new training skills by the instructors.

Lieutenant Colonel Yevdokhin visited the Smolensk regiment. He used one of the subunits to conduct demonstration classes with the new methods for all categories of commanders. The unit officers could see for themselves that the recommended training procedures were actually more effective. The advance methods soon found supporters in all the regimental subunits. There can be no doubt that this soon made itself felt in the quality of the training and in the competition results.

In our opinion, the experience of the superior political organ in assuring highly effective competition between the regiments is also extremely valuable. A great deal was done in this respect: A system for providing information on the fulfillments was set up between the rivals, specific action was taken to assure that the CPSU members performed an avant-garde role in the training and the service, and a practice was adopted whereby the communists in charge presented reports on the state of affairs in the units.

The nature of this work can be judged from the example of one of the expanded sessions of the party committee, which analyzed the competition between the regiments. Representatives of both units were invited to attend, including enlisted men active in the party and the Komsomol. How was the fulfillment of commitments going for the initiators? How was the progressive experience of the rivals being used? Where efforts could focus in order to improve the performance of the tasks? These and many other questions were brought up for discussion. In their talks, officers-and-communists Yu. Mikhaylenko, N. Yenelin

and M. Bykov exactly assessed what had already been achieved and submitted a number of recommendations, the implementation of which subsequently produced a perceptible benefit.

The animated exchange of opinions among the communists also brought out deficiencies in the organization of the training and indoctrinational process, the party-political work and the competition. It was learned, for example, that the units did not always have the opportunity to use real targets for the performance of comprehensive drills, that the subunits were not always meeting the schedules for training specialists with the higher ratings. Urgent steps were taken with respect to all the critical comments made by the communists.

All of the things we have mentioned are just samples of the extensive work which was performed. A great deal was undeniably done. However, we could not fail to mention also the fact that, in our opinion, far from everything was irreproachable in this work.

Take the plan we have mentioned, for example. It would appear to be a good plan in every way. This is true only of its content, however. Not enough thought was given to the scheduling of a number of important and undoubtedly useful activities. A significant portion of them were scheduled for the final period of the training year. Competitions among the best combat crews, the exchange of work experience among the outstanding officers-and-methods experts, party and Komsomol organizations, and competitive inspections of visual agitation, Lenin rooms and combat glory rooms, and a great many others were not scheduled until September, for example.

These activities would have been more useful had they been conducted during the winter training period, let us say. After all, it is very important not just to spot new and progressive things, but also to do it promptly, not to wait until the final phase of the training and the competition. They deliberately moved back the schedule for many of the activities, however, calculating that the achievements would be more apparent toward the end of the year. And what was the result? A great deal of the accumulated know-how, which was summarized only in the final phase of the training, can probably not be put to use until next training year.

Or take the following. In the organization of assistance for the competing units from higher levels, the scales were tipped slightly in favor of the initiating regiment. There is nothing reprehensible, of course, in the fact that the Smolensk unit received great attention. The initiators of competition are held up for all the Armed Forces to see. More is required of them, and stricter demands are made of them. It is obvious, however, that the same sort of attention should have been given to their rivals. When regiments compete, equal conditions should obviously be created in every respect for them. We know that this is an indispensable condition for the successful development of this kind of competition.

We have deliberately focused attention on this fact. In fact, and this is borne out by the totals for the year, the results achieved by the initiating regiment for almost all aspects of the combat training, the competition, alert duty and

military discipline are better than those of its rival. And indisputably, there is a direct connection between the successes of the initiators of the competition and the attention which they received. The main objective of competition, however, is to equalize the regiments, to bring them up approximately to an even level, the highest level. We are convinced that this would have been possible for Lieutenant Colonel Antonov's men. The possibility could undoubtedly have been better utilized. And one of the certain ways of achieving this would have been to make the competition between the regiments even more effective and active. All the more, since the leadership has acquired adequate experience. There are some convincing facts attesting to this.

[16 November 1982, 2]

[Text] Competition between regiments could not be called a new thing. This is not the first year it has been an inseparable part of the training process. As they compare their performance, the subunits bring the entire formation up to the level of those out front. It is very important for the personnel to be well informed about the best achievements, that they constantly adopt beneficial experience. What is being done about this in the regiments which we are discussing?

2. Contacts

Probably every military post has its own distinguishing features. Despite generally accepted and mandatory army features, they differ in some almost imperceptible way and have their own specific character. This is true of subunits in the regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel I. Antonov. We can say without fear of exaggeration that the missilemen can boast about their visual agitation, impressive in substance and striking in its form. Naturally, it is a product not just of the battery artists, but also of many other missilemen, primarily the political workers. They incorporated profound meaning in each stand, poster and diagram.

Brilliant transparencies set up in the most prominent places stand out markedly among all the attractive agitation. "Soldier, do not forget that we are competing with the Guards anti-aircraft missile unit!" one of them reminds the men. Another appeals to the personnel to win first place in the competition with the slogan "Enhance vigilance and reliably guard the homeland's security!", and achieve victory over the Guardsmen in the Smolensk regiment.

Outward signs of the competition between the two outstanding units are apparent everywhere. The wall newspaper contains the permanent section: "What it is like among our rivals." The combat training of the Guards missilemen is depicted in interesting photographs set up in a display on the military post of the regiment commanded by officer Antonov. Appeals by the competition initiators to personnel of the Air Defense Forces are displayed everywhere. In other words, Lieutenant Colonel Antonov's men have been kept informed about the other unit's affairs and have lived with the thought of fulfilling their commitments in the best possible manner, in order to emerge the victors in the highly enthusiastic competition. And this has been done not simply for the sake of prestige, of course. The men

have followed a noble goal--to achieve even better results in the training and the service by developing wholesome rivalry. This desire has also motivated the actions of officer Nechayev's men. It would have been impossible without reciprocal communication, without close contacts. How were these established?

The specific nature of the combat mission of units and subunits of the Air Defense Forces, as we know, is such that most of the personnel perform their service duties and alert duty at the "sites." The rival regiments referred to are not located on single military posts, for example. Taking into account the fact that there are certain objective difficulties in communication, vital contacts were persistently sought. And frequently, with a fair amount of success.

At the very height of the summer training period the unit commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Antonov was visited by a group of representatives from the Guards regiment, which included the best specialists from among the officers and enlisted men. It was headed by Guards Major S. Spitsyn, a staff officer. The visitors were eagerly awaited. The men in the regiment had long wanted to hear what they had to say, to question them about their lives and personal affairs, about their successes--mainly, however, about how they had achieved the successes. And they themselves naturally wanted to "show their stuff"--perhaps the Guardsmen would also gain something useful from the others.

The visitors delved into every little detail. They looked into every corner of the complex regimental operation. And there were things "worth spotting" among their rivals. For one thing, the military sharpness of the soldiers and sergeants and their excellent appearance caught the attention of the visitors. Naturally, these things do not simply happen. The visitors asked how they had been achieved. Lieutenant Colonel Antonov's men willingly talked about this. Such things are first of all a result of day-to-day demandingness on the part of commanders, and attest to the beneficial effect of the competition. This is not all, though.

Several months ago the staff of the regiment we refer to set up a demonstration class on the holding of the morning inspection by the junior commanders. It was directed by Lieutenant Ye. Spitsyn, chief of the supply service. The sergeants were given a graphic lesson on how to maintain a neat appearance on the part of subordinates. They then decided to set up a "standard," so to speak, personal service room, which became a model for all the subunits. The soldiers began making a special effort to put their uniforms in order, and the visitors noticed the resulting sharpness of the men. The Guardsmen also liked the way in which their rivals prepared men for alert duty, the procedure they used for totaling the competition results and their ability to competently analyze shortcomings.

Upon arriving back in their unit, Guards Major S. Spitsyn and Guards Senior Lieutenant A. Kolesnik, political worker, reported on everything they had seen to a conference of officers and warrant officers. The latter listened critically to their report. Some of the things they reported were deemed absolutely acceptable, while other innovations would have to be given some careful thought before they could be beneficially applied in the local situation.

We would like to point out that the measures, which ultimately "took hold" in both regiments, were not important in and of themselves. These could obviously vary among the different units. Something else is important. The moral aspect of competition was fully demonstrated. the desire of the personnel to surpass the "opponent" somehow, to outdo it, produces another noble objective--to help the rivals achieve the best possible results, to share with them that which has been valuable in their own situation. Therein lies the power of socialist competition.

The organizers of the competition, the regimental commanders, differ in their personalities and their experience. Igor' Konstantinovich Antonov admits without elaborating that he still has a way to go to catch up with Nechayev. The latter has more practical experience. Antonov has known him for years. While still a student at a military academy, Igor' Konstantinovich arrived in one of the anti-aircraft missile regiments for practical training with the troops. The unit's energetic chief of staff immediately attracted his attention. His winning qualities were his earnestness, his ability to unerringly spot the main element in the work and his talent for infecting others with his enthusiasm. Valeriy Dmitriyevich Nechayev occupied a highly demanding staff position.

Antonov later learned that Nechayev was in command of a regiment, and he was sincerely happy for his new acquaintance. Such an individual deserves this great trust. When he himself assumed command of a unit and learned that it had traditionally competed with the Smolensk regiment, he considered this to be nothing but good luck. After all, he could learn a great deal from Nechayev. All the more, since the commander of the Guards regiment prefers to share his knowledge and experience unobtrusively, in a sort of casual manner.

Valeriy Dmitriyevich once visited the firing range, where a conference on missile firing was held. On his way back to the unit, he decided to drop in on Antonov. He could not simply pass by, because he had gained a great deal from the conference, had learned about increased demands for tactical exercises, about the stricter evaluation being made of the performance of the launching subunits and about other new things, the application of which would be an unquestionable "addition" to the combat readiness potential. It can be assumed that the officers would have learned about what came out of the conference from literature on the conference. It is useful to receive important information first-hand, so to speak, and especially right after an activity has ended.

Antonov also had something to share with his colleague during that unexpected visit. He informed Nechayev of a competitive review for best training materials base just ended in the unit. He acquainted Nechayev with some aids prepared in the subunits commanded by officers M. Babich and V. Gladyshev. Nechayev figured that the exchange had been a good deal. The commander of the Guards regiment immediately made the firm decision to adopt the innovations from the friends. The end of the training year was just over the hill, and it was important to add to the reserves chest anything which would make it possible to give new impetus to the classes and the competition in order to completely fulfill the large commitments.

This is far from the only example of close practical communication between the two rival regiments. Lieutenant Colonel V. Makov and Guards Major V. Zhukov, political section chiefs, staff and subunit officers and service chiefs also

repeatedly met. These exchanges included meetings planned in advance and those suggested by circumstances. And every time the meetings were unquestionably of benefit to both sides.

Once, as an example, the motor vehicle subunit of the regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Antonov was executing a march from the area of a tactical exercise. Officer S. Danilin laid out the route to pass by the Guardsmen. He had heard a lot about the good work performed by the rival motor vehicle specialists. The situation made it possible to spend some time with the latter. And Danilin was not sorry that he had visited the excellent unit. He and his men saw a motor vehicle pool set up in an exemplary manner. They also liked the area set up for informing the drivers of ways to conserve fuels and lubricants and for making known the names of those who had achieved significant results in this area. Upon returning to his unit, the officer tried to adopt from his rivals that which had "caught his eye."

Officer Yu. Mikhaylenko, political worker, who has done a great deal to coordinate contacts between the rival regiments, had the following to say:

"We consider it our duty to direct the work in the units so that the spirit of rivalry does not weaken for a minute. In most cases our joint efforts have permitted us to seek out reserves, to find reliable ways of intensifying the training and indoctrinational process." Yuriy Vasil'yevich thought briefly and then added: "Naturally, not everything has been done the way we would like it to be done. The meetings conducted at the various levels could be more thoroughly conceived and substantive. The regular reciprocal briefings could also have been improved."

We would add from ourselves that the information provided in these briefings consisted predominantly of figures describing the results of drills, the number of rationalization proposals submitted, information on the preparation of experts and rated specialists, and so forth. No one would cast doubt upon the importance of exchanging such information, of course. This is essential. It is not enough, however. There should have been a more extensive exchange of opinions and information--about the best men, for example, about their successes and deeds, about their lives and what is of greatest concern in each unit. There was obviously not enough of this kind of information in either regiment. After all, vital and precisely coordinated contacts providing information on the lives and the training of the rivals and on their aspirations have a mobilizing effect upon the men and enhance the effectiveness of the competition.

It was not just the inadequacy of the reciprocal information process and of the publicizing of the best men, however, which to some degree reduced the possibilities of the competition between the regiments. There were other, more substantial factors. These will be discussed later.

[17 November 1983 p 2]

[Text] In the regiments we are discussing one problem, the exchange of advanced know-how, was the most difficult of all the problems which ordinarily arise in the organization of competition

among units, one which has not yet been completely resolved. There were also other problems, perhaps not as difficult, but which also require serious handling and resolution.

3. Problems

Strictly speaking, the prompt, serious and specific exchange of know-how in the two rival units was efficient and fairly well organized at the level of regimental commanders, staffs and political sections. With respect to the experience of the subunits, however, and especially that of the crews and individual specialists, it was kept within the unit in most cases and rarely got as far as the rivals. Furthermore, a great deal of the experience in organizing the training and indoctrinational process and a lot of information about the state of rationalization work and the practical supervision of the socialist competition itself within one regiment was far from always made accessible to the other.

Take just the organization of the campaign for thrifty, economical operation of the batter service, a problem of long standing and not a simple one for many. For many, but not for the Guards fightingmen. The initiators managed to resolve this problem, and fairly thoroughly. It all began when the group of rationalizers headed by Guards Major A. Kanivchenko created a mobile battery-charging station, providing it with everything necessary for checking and repairing batteries and maintaining them at the optimal operating level--from instruments and spare parts to a water distillation unit. In time it became obvious that such a station is indispensable in the field, for handling the charging and discharging cycles for the batteries. It is serviced by one individual--Guards Private A. Batuyev. As a result around 20 batteries which had used up their service life and been written off were given new "life," and the operating life of many others was considerably extended.

One would have thought that this experiment would be of interest and would be taken up not only by the rivals, but in other units as well. In reality, however, this did not happen. The Smolensk regiment personnel filled out another rationalization proposal form, and this was the end of it. The innovation did not get outside the unit.

The situation was the same with the experience of the innovators in perfecting the training materials base and improving the conditions for working with the equipment--precisely those problems which were receiving considerable attention in the search for ways to accomplish the training plans and tasks in the best possible manner.

Or take the following fact. The state of military discipline is considerably better in the regiment which initiated the competition. This has been achieved with the thorough application of a large system of measures and concerted efforts by commanders, political workers, party and Komsomol organizations. Efforts to strengthen the authority and training of the sergeants produced the most apparent and perceptible results. They are now primarily the ones held accountable for everything done in the section or crew: for the training of the

soldiers, discipline and order, for the condition of equipment and weapons and the competition among their subordinates. And the demands are great. The absolute majority of sergeants in the regiment--and we would like to stress this fact--have become junior commanders not just formally but in reality.

It is an interesting fact that the penalties imposed upon some sergeants were not for personal infractions but for failings in the training and indoctrination of the soldiers, for formalism sometimes manifested in the competition. And these penalties were not just along service lines. Some junior commanders who belong to the Komsomol have been required to submit reports at bureau meetings in their Komsomol organizations and been penalized for various failings in the organization of competition.

Naturally, along with the strict demands made of the sergeants, they are also actively taught. There is an "iron" rule in the regiment, for example: Immediately prior to exercises in which the sergeants are to act as instructors, mandatory briefings are held for them by the subunit commanders or their deputies. Another rule has also been undeviatingly observed: The sergeants have totaled the results of the competition among their subordinates on a daily basis.

This is actually the way it should be, and we are certainly not trying to pass it off as something new. You will agree, however, that this is far from a universal practice, not even among the Guardsmen's rivals in the regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Antonov. We feel that the way in which the Smolensk Guardsmen have basically resolved the problem of indoctrinating the junior commanders, however, is important and would be useful to many others. But even this was not made fully accessible to officer Antonov's subordinates.

And so, the initiators had accumulated a considerable body of experience, and the experience was being applied, actively working to enhance the effectiveness of the combat training and the competition. The same conclusion could be drawn with respect to the regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel A. Antonov. This conclusion would involve one reservation, however: The search for and application of new things has been somewhat less successful in the regiment. Despite this, it also has things which would unquestionably benefit the rivals. The experience in fitting new soldiers into the formation, for example. As we have already noted, however, many valuable and instructive things accumulated in the subunits remained sealed off, so to speak, to the others, simply settled and stayed where they were in the collectives. And the competition, the common cause, unquestionably suffered as a result.

The process of exchanging information and mutual enrichment with everything valuable and progressive should be organized differently. It should be more flexible, focused and efficient. Possibly, we need to alter the procedure for exchanging delegations, including in them the best specialists, those capable of thoroughly delving into the affairs of the rivals, of spotting new and valuable things. These are extremely general recommendations, of course. We have already stated that the problem of assuring close and reliable contacts between the units has still not been fully resolved. And it does need to be resolved, without procrastination, in order to make the competition between the regiments more effective and efficient from the very first days of the new training year.

We feel that the unit party and Komsomol organizations could do a great deal in this area. We would say in passing that along with unquestionable successes, their work of exerting an active influence upon the competition and mobilizing the men to study the experience of the outstanding and to fulfill their commitments absolutely and well, also contains significant shortcomings. For example, some of the subunit party and Komsomol organizations did not begin working imaginatively and purposively on the actual competition between the regiments until the summer combat training was in full swing. The most diverse matters had been placed on the agenda prior to this, but the competition was discussed only in passing. And many of the things which could have been done were omitted, of course. This applies to possibilities for reciprocal adoption of advanced know-how.

The opinion was expressed in the units that the higher headquarters and political organ had not done everything possible, that they had not provided instructions and assistance in good time. Furthermore, they themselves had the best opportunity to study and compare the state of affairs at the sites, to see how a specific success had been achieved, to promptly recommend all of the best things for adoption.

There is obviously some foundation for these arguments. As we have already stated, several commissions visited the regiments during the training year. And unquestionably, along with making inspections and providing assistance, they could also have made a more thorough study of the situation with respect to the reciprocal exchange of know-how and helped organize a better exchange.

The units themselves had some good possibilities for doing this, however. This is adequately demonstrated by the fact that each headquarters regularly made a comparative assessment of both regiments for all aspects of the combat and political training. At any given time it was possible to see who had the best performance indices and in precisely what areas. They only needed to ask themselves the following question: If the indices have been consistent and have been improving from month to month (and this was graphically depicted), then how is this being achieved? And this question--with serious interest, of course--would have opened up a direct line to the experience of their neighbors. In fact, however, the situation was entirely different. The organized recording of the training results mainly fulfilled a single, informational function.

Nor was the problem of summarizing their own experience in the regiments themselves fully resolved. We were shown folders containing records on the experience of the outstanding commanders, political workers and other specialists. This is a good and necessary practice, it would appear. As we read some of the entries in the records, however, it was difficult to glean anything useful for ourselves. The bits of information on progressive experience were hidden behind general statements and appeals. It is clear that the reciprocal exchange of such information between the regiments (and such an exchange took place) produced few results. Some other approach should obviously have been used for this as well. This method of summarizing the experience should have included specific recommendations and competent elaborations, for example, which any officer could have used without any special effort, taking the specific nature of his own job into account.

This process could have been based on those methods used by the Political Directorate of the Air Defense Forces, which involve annual summarizations of the experience of the units initiating the competition. These summarizations, unlike those of the regiments, present in concentrated and accessible form both the idea behind each innovation and the specific recommendations and proposals.

...The competition between the regiments is in the last phase. The final results have once again convincingly demonstrated its mobilizing role and its vital force. The Guardsmen have advanced significantly in their combat improvement. Aligning the formation with those out front, their rivals have moved markedly closer to them. This is an unquestionable success on the part of Lieutenant Colonel Antonov's subordinates.

Not all of the reserves have been fully utilized, however. We are convinced that the competition between the regiments holds numerous other possibilities which must be put to use. This requires an exacting study of the actual practices employed for organizing and directing the competition and getting directly to work on those problems which are retarding progress and which demand to be resolved. This must be done immediately, during the time remaining before the beginning of the new training year. The interests of our cause demand it.

11499

CSO: 1801/110 A

GROUND FORCES

NEED TO EMPHASIZE ALL ASPECTS OF TRAINING STRESSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Nov 83 p 2

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Capt A. Deryabin: "Was it Difficult in the Exercise?"]

[Text] The tank battalion completed the tactical field fire exercise. In the exercise director's opinion the company commanded by Sr Lt A. Chertilin functioned well. It seemed the company commander should have been satisfied by the high grade which his subunit received, but he was dissatisfied, and one can understand him. The officer essentially did not have occasion to experience genuinely the combat intensity and responsibility for a decision made and executed independently. During several days of combat actions the "enemy" did not once give the company commander missions, as they say, which the officer did not know the answer to in advance. Perhaps it is all a matter of the commander's anticipation and of intelligence that was faultless in accuracy and completeness? It turned out that this was not so. The problem was that the exercise was "organized," as they say.

It is natural that exercises, and consequently situations in them, are planned in advance based on the probable enemy's tactics and weapons. The combat is practice. But this does not at all mean that one can be reconciled with conditionalities in it. The task is to reduce their negative effect to a minimum. One such conditionality in the one-sided exercise consisted of the "enemy" actions, which were simulated by narrative problems. It is with the help of narrative problems that a dynamic, rapidly changing situation approximating actual combat to the maximum is created in the field. But it happens, as for example happened in the battalion tactical exercise, that all proposed narratives under the exercise plan became known to its participants in advance. Fearing that the platoon, company and battalion commanders would not understand the difficult situation and for all he knew would receive a low grade, the problem director explained thoroughly to the officers prior to the field exercise how the "enemy" would behave in the upcoming combat according to the exercise plan. Then with the authorization of the exercise director the battalion commander, Lt Col B. Koval'chuk, conducted a dismounted tank training class with all battalion crews at the range. On the future battlefield the tank commanders were shown specifically all lines where targets would be raised,

they were told about planned narratives to the entire depth of subunit actions and they were given recommendations on how best to act on receiving those narratives.

"The 'enemy' is extremely 'obliging' in falling into our hands," was the remark I heard from one of the officers when one of the tankmen returned to the assembly area. "We know what countermeasures he will take on the battlefield and we also know that any maneuver of ours is fated to succeed..."

And so it happened that engine life was used, ammunition was used up and the major element making up the objective of such problems—to teach the personnel to defeat a strong, well trained enemy who will strive to impose his will and will undertake unexpected actions—was not achieved.

Hence the dissatisfaction with exercise results on the part of the officers, including Sr Lt Chertilin. The company commander naturally assumed that serious tests lay in wait for him at the range and that there would be so many unexpected things prepared for him as commander: the march, an attack of "enemy" strongpoints and combat in the depth of defenders' combat formations. In fact, however, everything turned out differently. The "enemy" operated under a "scenario" familiar to the tankmen and presented nothing new or unexpected for the attackers.

It was not only the officers who were dissatisfied. The admissions by driver-mechanic Pvt M. Ziyayev, for example, force one to ponder.

"I know every pebble and every depression in my lane," he said. "And I have my own reference points on where to stop, where to drop the rpm and where targets will be hoisted at the lines."

The private has served 1½ years and in this time he has been at the range more than once and has taken part in exercises. In the BTU [battalion tactical exercise] mentioned earlier, he again had to take the combat vehicle into the attack in a very familiar sector.

As noted in the Field Manual, modern combat bears a dynamic, rapidly changing character, it abounds in difficulties and requires commanders to have the ability to orient themselves and make decisions in nonstandard situations. This is the kind of combat, albeit practice combat, which we will discuss. Tank battalion commander Maj A. Shakhov was directing a company tactical exercise. The tension of a multikilometer march, organization of the assembly area in the engineer sense, negotiating contaminated zones wearing protective gear, repulsing air attacks and, as a finale, penetration of a forward edge of "enemy" defense and dynamic combat in the defensive depth—all this was experienced fully by the tankmen at that time.

"The battalion commander really created a situation; it was a hot time," said platoon commander Lt A. Gordeyev after the combat. "We had to go all out, as they say."

The battalion commander also took a "rigid" approach to evaluating subordinates' actions. The company fired well but Maj Shakhov again and again sharpened the attention of the company commander and platoon commanders on tactical mistakes during the problem critique: One platoon was late moving to the line of departure and another, in maneuvering to attack the "enemy" in the flank, did not take advantage of natural folds in the terrain and the attack of the defenders' forward edge developed slowly, with frequent halts to wait for laggards.

In response to the question "Didn't he take too captious an approach to evaluating subordinates' actions?" Maj Shakhov took from a map case the book of memoirs by HSU Lt Gen N. I. Biryukov entitled "Trudnaya nauka pobezhdat'" [The Difficult Science of Winning].

"I would advise every commander to read it," remarked the officer. "Read it and try to 'fit' many of the theses to what we are doing today. Here for example..."

And he read the following lines: "I had more than one occasion to observe in combat people who first were 'christened' in the rear. There was an enormous difference in comparison with those who had not gone through such exercises."

The difficult science of winning... There is no question that the book's title is very expressive and accurate. You read it and immediately Suvorov's well-known saying comes to mind: "Difficult in the exercise, easy in the campaign," and it has not lost its meaning even in our days. And it is of course taken with the stipulation that one cannot count on a campaign or combat being easy.

I recall a field fire exercise with the motorized rifle battalion commanded until recently by Capt V. Fomenko (this officer now is studying in the first course of the Frunze Military Academy). In every exercise phase the exercise director and his assistants complicated the situation with various narratives. For example, a narrative was received right at the railroad siding where the battalion had arrived for loading: "'Enemy' aviation has demolished the track ahead." Capt Fomenko had to prepare his subordinates urgently for a multi-kilometer march on T/O&E equipment. Could the battalion commander foresee such a turn of events? We will respond as follows: He had to be ready for it. After brief preparation in the assembly area the motorized riflemen began a penetration of the "enemy" forward edge of defense. It stands to reason that they were firing on conditional targets--plywood ones--but this circumstance was not reflected in any way on the intensity of combat. As prescribed under the methodology of conducting exercises, the target situation was familiar to the motorized riflemen only partially. At that time, according to the narrative problems, the battalion had to repulse a counterattack, commit the second echelon in exploiting success, and execute various maneuvers on the battlefield. The battalion commander and other officers were prompted to act vigorously and resolutely by the situation itself and the "enemy's" stubborn resistance. For example, the defenders made an attempt to land a tactical assault force from helicopters in the attackers' rear. The exercise director's position and his attempt to complicate the tactical situation continuously

permitted Fomenko to display his independence and tactical proficiency fully. And when the exercise ended traces not only of weariness but also of satisfaction with the fact that victory had been won over a strong "enemy" in the practice combat could be seen on the motorized riflemen's faces, darkened from sweat and dirt. The "enemy" became strong because the exercise director strictly followed the principle of teaching subordinates what is necessary in war.

I never met an officer who would not agree that every exercise must be conducted with consideration of this principle's requirements. Then why is it that far from every class becomes a genuine school of combat proficiency and a school of independence?

The motorized rifle company commanded by Sr Lt N. Bakhan was functioning as an advance party. Beginning with the phase of closing with the "enemy" in anticipation of a meeting engagement and ending with the final phase of pursuit, Sr Lt Bakhan did not have occasion to send over the air an independent: "I decided..." He was supplied with ready-made decisions by the battalion commander.

"We were afraid Bakhan might do something foolish. He hasn't been in the company commander's position very long," summed up the director after the exercise.

But the fact is that the senior lieutenant has a higher combined-arms school behind him where he learned to function as a company commander as well. And with respect to not being in the position "very long," by this time Bakhan already had held it for a year. The coddling and mistrust of the company commander may lead to a situation where the officer just will not experience to the full extent the full range of responsibility for a decision being made.

And so you have one of the answers to the question "Why?" The fear of senior personnel that juniors will do something foolish. But just as one won't learn to swim without plunging into the water, so without independence and trust one will not acquire what is necessary in real combat: an ability to think, to analyze a difficult situation and to be ready to make a commander's decision.

...The facts given here are from the past training year, but one thinks of them again and again now when strenuous preparation is under way among the troops for the new phase of combat training. It is probably because these facts specifically reflect the essence of our chief Army purpose--to learn to win in combat and to learn in a genuine manner what is necessary in war. It is with just such a spirited mood and a burning desire to master the difficult science of winning that it is important to head for the new training year.

6904

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

TACTICAL EXERCISE LACKS COOPERATION

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Col L. Kovrizhkin, senior inspector-pilot of Group of Soviet Forces in Germany Aviation, military pilot-sniper: "Combat Demands Coordination"]

[Text] The group of missile-armed aircraft headed by first class military pilot Lt Col Yu. Yurin already was approaching the attack objective when "enemy" fighters appeared in the air.

This was no surprise for Lt Col Yurin and his subordinates as during preparation for accomplishment of the important assignment the aviators prudently also had discussed the variant of operations when intense aerial combat would have to be waged with "enemy" aircraft. During the training year which ended, the pilots more than once entered battle against fighters prior to executing the bombing of designated targets during tactical flying exercises, so they had built up a certain amount of experience and learned to penetrate the "enemy" air defenses.

This time too the group leader maneuvered expertly in executing the commands of the tactical control officer. His subordinates executed the advanced flying after him just as precisely and cohesively. One sensed that the pilots had practiced a great deal before they attained such synchronism in their actions. But the "enemy" too possessed high proficiency. One maneuver followed the other and the aerial combat assumed a more and more tense character.

Nevertheless, Lt Col Yurin's subordinates acted more calculatingly. They succeeded in penetrating the "enemy's" air screen and delivering an accurate strike against his ground targets.

Unfortunately, however, the aviators did not receive an outstanding grade this time. The problem was that screening fighters had been attached to the group for more effective penetration of the "enemy" air defense coverage. Before the sortie Lt Col Yurin personally assigned them the mission and went over variants of coordination in detail, but that was all on the ground. In the sky the group commander focused wholly on controlling his own wingmen. He only assured himself that the attached aircraft were proceeding on the designated course and then he became utterly absorbed in his own concerns.

These concerns of course increased when "enemy" aircraft rose to meet the missile-armed aircraft. The logic of combat demanded that the fighters attached to the strike group immediately go into action. Who, if not they, were to divert the "enemy" to themselves, paralyze his forces and clear the road to the target, as they say?

But Lt Col Yurin decided that he had sufficient forces of his own to cope with the air "enemy." Well, the group really did have experienced pilots. Ultimately they came out the winners in a stubborn air battle, but so much effort was expended for this! Had the "enemy" been a bit more skillful and persistent then the strike group might have been in a serious position at the moment the attack was delivered against the ground target.

Strictly speaking, the fighter cover was intended to give the fighter-bombers an opportunity to deliver the strike under more favorable conditions and avoid unjustified losses even before approaching the given area. In this situation the strike group commander was supposed to direct the actions of all pilots, but he didn't do this and so the cover group acted on its own, as it were, outside the overall dynamics of the aerial combat.

Yes, the aviators had everything needed to come out of the difficult, responsible test with an outstanding grade, but this didn't happen only because they didn't use all tactical capabilities for more effective accomplishment of the assigned mission. It would appear that what happened will be a good lesson for the future.

6904

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

SPECIAL ATTENTION TO BATTERY PHYSICAL TRAINING

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Nov 83 p 1

[Article by Lt Col L. Zonov and Maj A. Chumachenko, masters of sport: "Missilemen's Conditioning"]

[Text] The situation in the tactical exercise, which had gone on for several days in a row, continuously grew more complicated. The air "enemy" was showing activeness and trying to penetrate at any cost to the defended installations. Aircraft were flying from different directions and at different altitudes and they maneuvered by changing speed and course. But personnel of the surface-to-air missile unit displayed high military proficiency. The officers, NCO's and privates of the battery commanded by Capt A. Petryanin acted especially confidently in the exercise.

It was noted in the critique that along with the personnel's superb technical and special schooling, excellent physical training also was the basis for their successful actions. One becomes convinced of the correctness of these words each time a visit is made to this battery. The missilemen have a smart, dashing appearance and a majority of the privates and NCO's wear badges of the Military Sports Complex and sports categories on their chests.

But there was a time when the unit command element pointed out to battery officers the poor quality of some soldiers' physical training. The battery commander drew timely conclusions and began to devote more attention to developing the soldiers' strength, endurance and speed in actions.

An incident also helped here. Battery personnel had gone out on a tactical exercise. After making a long march along roads on mountainous woodland, the air defense personnel accomplished a number of difficult missions. Combat had to be waged under exceptionally difficult conditions, and when it was necessary to move out to a new area the vehicle commanded by Sr Lt O. Chabanov suddenly stopped. It turned out that the driver-mechanic was so tired that he couldn't drive the vehicle any longer. The officer replaced him immediately, but the other driver-mechanics also were at the limit, as they say. Fatigue also was reflected in the quality of the operators' work.

Then Capt Petryanin and other officers discussed everything thoroughly and agreed that physical skills and psychological qualities had to be improved

with consideration of the soldiers' specialties and the character of duty stresses. In classes they began to develop the driver-mechanics' endurance and strength above all and for operators in addition, the ability to perform precise actions under conditions of limited mobility and their reaction speed.

Battery personnel now begin intense practices right at the morning physical exercise which usually is conducted in the form of an integrated lesson which is strenuous and diverse in content. The arrangement of scheduled classes has improved. They are conducted regularly in all sections of physical training with high density and sufficient load for all specialist categories. In gymnastics classes the soldiers develop agility, endurance and stability toward overloads. Classes in negotiating obstacle courses, forced marches and crosscountry races also are held effectively in the subunit.

No matter how difficult the day is missilemen go to the stadium or the athletic compound in the evenings. Many of them are members of sports sections which are headed by the officers as well as the best trained NCO's and privates. For example, the battery commander works with persons who like weightlifting, and Sr Lt V. Yevlampiyev trains the gymnasts. It was thanks to regular physical training and sports activities that privates V. Markov and A. Firetov, driver-mechanic Pvt V. Burko and many other privates and NCO's achieved good results in combat training.

Classes and practices in the sports sections are arranged with consideration of soldiers' individual features. For example, Jr Sgt Yu. Grigor'yev noticeably tired after lengthy work at the screen and he began to make mistakes. Then Sr Lt S. Khmylov suggested a number of special exercises for the operators, including for Grigor'yev, particularly for muscles of the back, neck, legs and arms. Athletic organizer Sr Lt A. Nozdrin takes along a barbell, weights and dumbbells before the subunit goes into the field and the soldiers install a horizontal bar right at the location of activities and lay out very simple game fields.

Unfortunately, instances of an underestimation of physical training also are encountered in the unit. As a result, the soldiers slowly master functional duties and quickly tire during combat work. Some commanders reassign physical training classes to others, referring to their load. This reduces the quality of practices and the instructor himself loses an opportunity to work on improving his personal athletic and methods proficiency. For example, what can subunit commander Maj V. Borisov teach subordinates if he himself practices little and is incapable of fulfilling some norms?

To hold out under the ordeals of modern combat successfully, soldiers must have a great reserve of mental and physical energy--a strength factor, as they say. It is the primary task of all subunit commanders to develop this reserve in soldiers and set the example for them in physical conditioning.

AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE TRAINING EXERCISE DESCRIBED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Nov 83 p 1

[Report by Maj A. Drozdov, Red Banner Belorussian Military District: "Aerial Scouts"]

[Text] That day the airmen tested their schooling in performing reconnaissance of "enemy" weapons. Strict umpires tried to complicate the situation to the maximum and approximate an actual combat situation.

The ground specialists prepared equipment for flights with special thoroughness. Sr Lt Tech Serv Ye. Trishin and Sr Lt Tech Serv V. Kryuchenko labored dextrously, with Officer Yu. Tereshchenko, a master of combat qualification and chief of the flight's technical maintenance unit, supervising their actions carefully. The aircraft were loaded quickly with ammunition and equipment for aerial reconnaissance, with the aviators attempting to better the norms. Every minute influenced the end result.

"Aircraft ready for flight!" the warplane's technician reported to second class military pilot Capt S. Chikulayev, who had received from the umpire an assignment to perform a sortie for reconnoitering a target. Only the area and check reference points of the route were indicated in the assignment. Chikulayev had to make the decision for the flight, substantiate it competently in a short time period and prepare necessary documentation.

The officer's readiness was given the highest grade. Chikulayev's rival in competition, second class military pilot Capt O. Logvinenko, also received a grade of outstanding.

Before taking his place in the aircraft Chikulayev glanced at the map once again. The sector of terrain where the target was located resembled a foot hanging over the "front line." A wooded area which developed into a brush-covered plain created favorable conditions for the "enemy's" concealment...

Low clouds hung over the flying field and haze concealed reference points. Chikulayev had to operate under approximately the very same weather conditions during squadron competitions in aerial reconnaissance. At that time he located the target quickly, winning first place. Some were inclined to think that he simply had been lucky, but if there is no good-quality preparation for

a flight, firm knowledge of theory and corresponding experience and ability, luck hardly will help. Today Capt Chikulayev was in a frame of mind to prove that that success had not been an accident.

He proceeded to the reconnaissance area at low altitude. He changed the flight course several times, leading the "enemy" air defense astray. Haze, becoming clouds higher up, hung over the grayish-yellow earth with shreds of coniferous forest. "You couldn't think up worse weather for reconnaissance," thought the pilot as he estimated the situation.

"Permission to search?" he said, addressing the flight controller at the tactical range.

The latter gave an "okay" and entered in the log the time a search began for the target.

The pilot now did not look at the map. While still on the ground he had fixed firmly in memory the terrain relief and characteristic reference points. Now they appeared before him as if on a movie film which had come alive: the forest cut by the narrow strip of a road, a mown field, a little village with a handful of houses. Again the forest and small bushes...

The motley landscape and low altitude hindered search for the target, but the clouds interfered with going higher. It is no easy matter to conduct aerial reconnaissance in a supersonic aircraft. No matter how much one reduces speed it is still high. Such a flight demands special composure, circumspection, instantaneous reaction and excellent flying techniques. It also requires patience and self-control.

"Somewhere here..." suggested the pilot's intuition based on knowledge and experience. There! In the bushes Chikulayev noticed the typical outlines of motor vehicles and missiles which immediately disappeared beneath the wing. He noted the check reference points.

After executing another maneuver the pilot reported to the command post:

"Target detected, transmitting data..."

Chikulayev received the highest grade for timeliness, completeness and validity of information on the "enemy." An excellent grade also was given for accuracy of navigation, arrival in the reconnaissance area in time and compilation of a written reconnaissance report. Capt Chikulayev also earned a "five" for penetrating the "enemy" air defense coverage. But his competition rival Capt Logvinenko also received the largest amount of points.

But the umpires did not just recognize these pilots who were winners in aerial reconnaissance competition. That day deputy squadron commander Capt L. Beda demonstrated excellent aerial training. The son of a frontlinesman was assigned the mission of reconnoitering and destroying the "enemy" in another area. Like his father in the war years, he functioned skillfully. Capt Beda

crossed the "front line" and moved to the target accurately at low altitude while constantly changing course and speed. After determining its make-up and coordinates the officer transmitted the data to the ground and then took the missile-armed aircraft into an attack. While turning the fighter-bomber to depart for "friendly" territory after the fire attack on the "enemy," he suddenly noticed one other position of missile launchers and equipment amidst the bushes. They too were destroyed with the first attack...

The experience of the unit's foremost aviators was generalized in order to make use of it in the new training year with maximum effectiveness.

6904

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

AIRCRAFT DESIGNER S. V. IL'YUSHIN PROFILED

Moscow KRYL'YA RODINY in Russian No 10, Oct 83 pp 26-27

[Part One of article by Yakov Aleksandrovich Kutepov, deputy general designer, Hero of Socialist Labor, Lenin Prize Laureate: "Effectiveness, Reliability, Simplicity"]

[Text] The banner of the Experimental Design Bureau imeni S. V. Il'yushin has four orders on it: Lenin, October Revolution, Red Banner and Labor Red Banner. Like milestones, they mark the route covered by the OKB [experimental design bureau] collective over the past 50 years of intense creative work. The DB-3 and Il-4 and the legendary Il-2 ground attack aircraft created by the bureau were the primary attack force of Soviet long-range and front aviation during World War II and played a prominent part in defeating the armed forces of Hitler Germany and imperialist Japan.

In the postwar years the OKB collective headed by Sergey Vladimirovich Il'yushin and later by his pupil Genrikh Vasil'yevich Novozhilov created a galaxy of outstanding aircraft for the home air fleet. Among them was the first Soviet series-produced jet bomber, the Il-28; the Il-12, Il-14, Il-18 and Il-62; the powerful Il-76 cargo aircraft; and the Il-86, the first Soviet widebody liner. Prominent in the design and configuration of all these aircraft is the special signature of the collective, characterizing its attempt to give the country an aircraft which does not simply respond to the demands of the time, but is without fail highly efficient, reliable, technologically feasible in production and simple to operate. This predetermined the large-scale production of the primary aircraft of this OKB and their longevity.

A veteran of the renowned design collective and immediate participant in the development of almost all aircraft created in the OKB and their modifications, Yakov Aleksandrovich Kutepov, tells about the collective's establishment and half-century of work.

Main Attack Force of the Air Forces

In 1933 Sergey Vladimirovich Il'yushin, director of the Central Design Bureau [TsKB], told a group of engineers about the design of a twin-engine long-range bomber which he conceived long ago. Specialists immediately saw the promise in such an aircraft and agreed without hesitation to take part in implementing its design. Small special brigade No 3 began to be formed within the TsKB staff to develop drawings of the experimental machine. The brigade primarily was made up of young people. Its work was arranged according to the principle of maximum specialization and proceeded under the motto: "Do big things with little forces."

Experienced specialists were invited in from other design brigades and the TsAGI [Central Aero-Hydrodynamics Institute] to head up each of the specialized groups: for development of wing design, fuselage, tail unit, undercarriage, power plant, electroradionavigation equipment and weapons; drafting; strength and aerodynamics calculations; control of documentation produced; and dispatcher's group.

I cannot help but emphasize how carefully Sergey Vladimirovich selected cadres, and this became a tradition in the OKB. He would talk personally with each manager and rank-and-file worker and assure himself that the person would work not out of fear but out of conscience and that he would give his all to the work. In 1933 I was a very young specialist and was working in the design drafting bureau of the Plant imeni Menzhinskiy. Il'yushin unexpectedly invited me over and suggested that I transfer to Brigade No 3 which he was forming. I refused on the grounds that the knowledge and experience I had gained prior to this in the tekhnikum, while working as a flight mechanic at a test flight station, and pluralistically as assistant foreman in the plant assembly shop was insufficient. Therefore I would study by correspondence in the MAI [Moscow Aviation Institute] and it would be very difficult to combine the strenuous work in Brigade No 3 with studies. Il'yushin listened to my explanations and said that he would take them into account, but soon an order came out about the transfer of certain plant workers to Brigade No 3, among whom I was also included. Thus began my work in the TsKB's Brigade No 3, which soon became an independent experimental design bureau.

Over the succeeding 50 years I had occasion to take part in developing the airframes of all aircraft of the "Il" make and in their construction, testing, introduction to series production and operation. Working as an engineer, head of OKB subunits and deputy general designer, I always took the example from S. V. Il'yushin. I learned from him how to resolve complicated technical problems and, of no less importance, I learned to work with people.

A special style began to form in Brigade No 3 from the first days. Sergey Vladimirovich taught the designers skillfully and patiently not to pursue external innovation. The important thing in designing components and systems and consequently the entire aircraft was that they meet three demands: high combat effectiveness, reliability, and simplicity in production and operation. A development can be considered complete only after the executor himself and

his immediate superior are sure and convinced that it is impossible to do better at the given stage.

It is well known that Il'yushin happily combined the natural talent of an engineer and scientist with the talent of an organizer which developed during the years of membership in the Communist Party. Farsightedness, purposefulness, party principle, conviction, and systematic nature of thought and organization were manifested in all his work, to which I had occasion to be witness for more than 40 years. Even while Brigade No 3 was being formed and later with its transformation into an independent OKB, he proceeded from the principle that the senior person teaches and coordinates the work of junior persons with its exceptionally precise distribution. By the way, he attached primary importance to this.

He built his relationships with subunit heads on absolute trust, which both obligates and instills a high feeling of personal responsibility. He considered his immediate participation in resolving fundamental problems to be absolutely mandatory and he himself tried and taught his closest comrades to make the executor a participant while freeing him of petty coddling. In trusting young designers he would proceed from the principle that a mistake would not find its way to the aircraft--there were sufficient levels in the OKB for "intercepting" it, while trust and independence in solving engineering problems helped the youth grow faster as specialists and accustomed them to think over comprehensively and evaluate critically the technical solution they had chosen.

These fundamental theses became traditional in our creative collective and they are constantly enriched and developed.

The new bomber's development proceeded swiftly thanks to the fact that Sergey Vladimirovich was able to staff the brigade with people who loved aviation and were capable of bold solutions. The fact that even before the beginning of a working design S. V. Il'yushin carefully thought out the basic design elements of the new bomber with a group of specialists also played its part.

In the summer of 1935 test pilot Vladimir Kokkinaki, now Twice-Honored HSU and Lenin Prize laureate, began testing our collective's firstborn, the experimental aircraft TsKB-26 with two M-85 engines. It was simultaneously the prototype of a long-range high-speed bomber and an experimental aircraft in which new solutions Il'yushin placed in its parameters and design were tested.

Our firstborn justified the hopes of the young design collective. Its flight characteristics proved very high for that time. Stability and controllability met all demands and maneuverability was even higher than the requirement placed on such aircraft. I recall that V. Kokkinaki executed the first inside loop in a twin-engine aircraft in the USSR in the TsKB-26. The first Soviet world record officially registered by the International Aviation Federation for that class of aircraft also was set in it.

The second aircraft of Brigade No 3--the TsKB-30 bomber with M-85 engines--was a further development of the TsKB-26. After testing was completed in 1936 the

aircraft was made operational by the Red Army with the designation DB-3. The Soviet Air Forces received an aircraft which considerably surpassed similar foreign aircraft in its flight performance. Nonstop flights from Moscow to the Far East and North America were made during 1938-1939 in the TsKB-30 aircraft "Moskva." These were outstanding achievements for that time. Their results suggested a number of solutions which allowed perfecting the series-produced DB-3 aircraft and this contributed to improved combat readiness of Soviet long-range aviation, where the DB-3 aircraft of various modifications made up the basis of the inventory by the end of the 1930's.

In 1937 a special aircraft was created for the Navy on the basis of the DB-3. This was the DB-3T with mine-torpedo weapons. It became the primary weapon of our Navy's mine-torpedo aviation.

Of course the good comments from units and from enterprises building our aircraft pleased the collective, but we all realized that even good aircraft quickly become obsolete. This is why the collective continuously searched for ways to perfect the aircraft. That was the case with our firstborn and it became a tradition in subsequent years. In May 1939 the collective handed over for flight testing one other version of our bomber, the DB-3F, which later was designated the Il-4. Plants built more than 5,000 aircraft of this modification. During the Great Patriotic War the DB-3, DB-3T and DB-3F (Il-4) aircraft were used actively at literally all fronts. Crews bombed enemy tanks, motorized infantry and artillery on the battlefield, accomplished night raids against airfields, lines of communication and enemy concentrations, and performed strategic reconnaissance. The Navy's DB-3 aircraft delivered strikes against ports, laid minefields, and sank enemy combatants and transports with torpedoes and bombs. On the night of 7/8 August 1941 DB-3T crews of the 1st Mine-Torpedo Regiment of the Red Banner Baltic Fleet delivered the first strike against Berlin, capital of fascist Germany.

Beginning with the Battle of Kursk the Il-4's were used more and more often during the day as medium bombers. Practically all the largest offensive operations Soviet troops conducted during the latter half of the war were preceded by mass raids of groups of Il-4's on targets located in the main attack sector. The relatively short distance permitted the crews to take aboard up to 2,500 kg of bomb load.

The patriotic desire by all design bureau workers to make the greatest possible contribution toward improving the might of the Soviet Air Fleet was and remains an important factor contributing to the successful accomplishment of tasks assigned to the OKB. Simultaneously with the modernization and introduction to mass production of the DB-3 (DB-3F) aircraft in the late 1930's, the OKB collective was working persistently to create a special aircraft intended for supporting ground troops on the battlefield and destroying tanks and motorized-mechanized troops.

Designers both here in the USSR and in many foreign countries were trying to create such an aircraft which had powerful offensive and defensive weapons, good flight performance and at the same time improved resistance to combat

damage. Much effort and money had been spent but no one had succeeded in accomplishing the task successfully. In my view, this is explained by the fact that all developers had a very vague idea of the "person" of such a ground attack aircraft and features of its tactical employment. This also hindered finding correct solutions in choosing the aircraft's basic layout, configuration and design.

Our collective's success in creating the famed Il-2 ground attack aircraft largely was predetermined by the fact that as OKB head, Sergey Vladimirovich Il'yushin had thought out long before the beginning of the aircraft's practical development how such an aircraft could be employed in war, what demand future combat against the ground and air enemy would place on it and, accordingly, what features had to be placed in its design. He "saw" the ground attack aircraft in flight and in combat and had a clear picture of the missions its crew would have to accomplish. The head of the OKB and the entire creative collective saw clearly that the future ground attack aircraft had to have high flight characteristics, be simple to control and have powerful machinegun-cannon, bomb and rocket weaponry for attack and good armor protection of the crew and vital systems and components. Clarity of the task also facilitated the search for its solution. The legendary Il-2 ground attack aircraft with the AM-38 engine and later the Il-10 with AM-42 engine were invested with all these qualities. In the estimate of the foreign press they became "a real scourge for German armored divisions."

The journal KRYL'YA RODINY already has told in detail how the Il-2 "flying tank" was created. I would like to emphasize here that in the process of working on the DB-3 and Il-2 aircraft the OKB collective and its main creative backbone also took shape. The ability and skill of heads and executors to accomplish difficult technical tasks creatively were tested, the structure was perfected, the work style took shape and traditions were born.

The Il-2 aircraft received a baptism of fire a week after the war began on approaches to Berezina and Bobruysk. Subsequently there was practically not one operation in which the Il-2 aircraft were not used. They were produced in series of many thousands at the three largest aviation plants. At the height of summer fighting of 1943 a little over 1,000 of the formidable aircraft arrived at the front each month. Soviet aircraft builders gave the front 36,163 Il-2 aircraft, the largest number of aircraft of one type during the entire existence of the world aviation industry.

Our experimental design bureau was awarded the Order of Lenin in 1942 and the Order of Red Banner in 1944 for services in creating new, high-quality types of warplanes.

(To be concluded.)

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NAVAL FORCES

SOVIET NAVAL SERVICE POPULARIZED

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Nov 83 p 6

[Article by Timur Gaydar: "In Special Circumstances"]

[Text] The shores of Greece were revealed by the early morning. Pinkish, unstable land rose over the sea, hardened and became distinguishable as the port of Piraeus.

Who is now surprised by foreign impressions? Yet neither plane, nor train, nor automobile allow one to experience what a sailor feels when he enters a foreign port on his own ship.

Earlier he is at home with his weapons or turbines, his cabin or crew space, comrade-friends, where his life had been spent. And all at once this usual and large world with its bridges, turrets, boiler and machine rooms and artillery lockers is surrounded by a strange, loud city and becomes a part of this city, joined with the silhouette of the sea-front. The heights of the ship's own masts and superstructure clash with the multi-stored buildings of banks, shipping and ship-building companies that embrace the half-ring harbor of Piraeus.

Having disembarked and blended in with the crowd on the mooring, I take a detached view of the cruiser "Zhdanov" and the minesweeper "Pylkiy" through the eyes of dock workers, city dwellers or tourists off passenger ships.

The cruiser isn't new. Twenty-seven years ago I twice had occasion to go around Europe on her. But in the same fault-finding glance she is all the same beautiful and menacing since the bow, open to the waves and wind, is spacious, the large caliber artillery turrets are powerful and the lacy wicker of antennae is more complicated. You know that the ship-builders of the "Zhdanov" put a lot of skill and talent into her, since she still serves with honor.

Yes, but the "Pylkiy" is the "Pylkiy." Compared to the cruiser she is small and seemingly wiry, all leaning forward, ready at any moment, at a touch, to let off a rocket salvo.

A column of blue buses rolled onto the pier. On each was written "Polemiko Nautiko." Nautico.... One can get the meaning: agro-nauts, cosmo-nauts,

navigation, sailing, navy. But what is this polembiko? The buses fill up with Soviet sailors, a Greek signal officer looks at his watch, and here we are off. Finally, the idea hits that the familiar word "Polemiko" can mean war--an argument decided by force of arms.

The Greek Navy (this is the "Polemiko Nautiko") buses rush to Athens. Ship's machinist section commander Petty Officer 2nd Class Kirill Boldunov pressed his forehead to the window, camera at the ready.

"The Acropolis" exclaimed his seat-mate, gunner Mengiz Rakhimov, pointing to the heights towering above the city.

"The Lekovitos," corrected Kirill and sternly added "one should know these things."

Certainly any person from any country who is in Greece has the right to consider himself fortunate. And timing the trip for fall, when the tourist season is ending and the harbor is packed with passenger ships, is not accident.

Many languages can be heard on Lekovitos: English, French, Russian, German, Spanish and more. From here you can see the large, light-gray city, looking like it steaming down the hill to the distant, but discernible sea. The city has highways congested with automobiles, small courts with linen drying, and the bulks of new hotels and small taverns on the flat roofs of buildings. Also from here one can examine the ruins of the Temple of Zeus and the Temple of the Nymphs, the road to Litsea and the Gardens of the Academy through which Plato strolled with his pupils.

Our group of sailors stood in the Acropolis near the Parthenon. Other groups crowded around the words of our guide, a young Greek, barely reached those in the rear. In the last rows Captain 3rd Rank Anatoliy Vladimirovich Sil'vestrov gave explanations.

Shade and light patterns played over the flutes of marble columns. It seemed that the column warmly eradicated a safe, friendly power.

"See," said Sil'vestrov. "Each slightly, almost indiscernibly, inclines to the inside. This gives a suggestion of stability."

In a low voice he leisurely related how the Parthenon had stood for almost twenty-five hundred years, and had been the Temple of Athena, an orthodox cathedral, a Moslem mosque and a cemetery which burst from falling shot in 1687 when the Venetians attacked. Now destroyed, it remains what it was from the very beginning, a manifestation of man's eternal aspiration for beauty, harmony and yes, for good fortune.

I don't know, maybe the Greek girl told it more completely and with more interest, but there was something of his own, a special meaning in what the sailors heard from this cruiser officer, whom the sailors knew well on the ship and even had recently congratulated when he received the medal "For Military Service."

The group had already left the Parthenon when one of the sailors waved his hands. "Lads, over here!" With that same attention and respect with which we had looked below at the Areopagus cliff, each stopped before the yellow halos "mother and step-mother" which showed up from under the marble block.

All the days of the Soviet ships' visit to Piraeus are recorded minute by minute and this program in unswervingly followed. It is interesting to see how at each step of the program, whether it be the command group's protocol visits to local military and civil organizations, the supper given for Greek Navy junior officers by the cruiser's warrant officers in their mess, or simply shore leave, every day and every hour the program was filled with the warmth of simple, non-official human intercourse.

This is always the case, though. As I leaf through the pages of old notebooks, I see Bergen, shrouded by rain, and read stories of people who say they gave birth right in a raincoat or under an umbrella. Norwegians in general are not inclined to show their feelings. And yet, shortly before this, in August 1958, when the cruiser "Oktyabr'skaya Revolutsiya" and the destroyer "Otchayanniy" arrived in Bergen on an official visit, this is exactly what happened. Misfortune had struck shortly before a huge fire had destroyed many old buildings. The Bergenites met the Soviet sailors courteously, but with restraint. Yet after a few days, to make up there were many flowers and smiles, flags and torches. The municipal stadium resounded with a happy rumble and ovations at the performance of the sailors talent show. And the local police chief, stout and grumpy, who had earlier demanded that nearby districts send him reinforcements before the Soviet visit, said, puffing on his cigar during the farewell reception, that he never imagined that such a thing could happen, that hundreds of foreign sailors could come on shore leave with generally no police problems.

Here is another notebook. An extract from a newspaper states "military police could not contain the wave of people who wanted to see the Soviet ships. The gate had to be thrown open wide." This was in November 1959 when the cruiser "Admiral Senyavin" and the destroyers "Vyderzhanny" and "Vozbyzhdenyy" visited Indonesia.

In the small French town of Boulogne-sur-Mer the presence of 120 sailors and cadets who arrived in May 1977 on a trip from Cherbourg where the destroyer "Zhguchiy" and the training ship "Smol'nyy" were anchored quickly became an event. Bidding adieu to the sailors, the city mayor said, "Today Boulogne is not simply receiving Soviet sailors. We feel that we are viewing 120 ambassadors suitably representing their great country."

Night falls. Somewhere over the city advertising lights burn. But darkness still has not come up to Piraeus and all its sides, as happens at this hour especially clearly. In the streets which run down from the town center to the harbor groups of Soviet petty officers and sailors are visible. The wind tosses sailor cap ribbons and plays rough tricks, throwing blue uniform collars onto the backs of heads.

Little Greek money, drachmas, is spent. The Soviet sailors' shore leave hardly arouses any special trade excitement in Piraeus. Yet each sailor has

bought a modest gift for his family or himself as a remembrance. They walk along swinging plastic packages.

They don't return alone. New friends, both young and sedate, elderly people, the omnipresent children and, of course, girls, accompany many to the port gate and up to the mooring itself.

Along side, the last ones put lenses on maximum exposure and set timers for a little longer--photographs. Funny sequences. All the Greek women want to be photographed with the blond Hercules Petty Officer Sergey Gusev. And all the sailors want pictures with beautiful Greek women.

Then at the double along the ship's ladder, and at the first step on board, hand to the cap and eyes left to the navy flag.

The next day thousands of the inhabitants of Piraeus and Athens and many who travelled from afar for this fill the deck of the "Zhdanov" and the "Pylkiy." The watch guides the stream of people through the ship. Petty Officer 2nd Class Roz Eynaris had to be substituted for after half an hour. He was one of the first people along the route, at the "bottleneck" between the ladder and the universal caliber tower, and everyone who came up the ladder shook his hand. After holding his hand in cold water Eynaris returned to his post.

People go and go, an endless, animated, talkative train. They respectfully run their hands along the armour, smile at their reflection in the polished copper bell and talk with sailors. A word, a gesture, a photograph taken from a wallet, a badge on the chest, the sickle and hammer before the name of a Greek newspaper: all this is done for mutual intercourse.

A line forms in front of the table where the "opinion book" is.

Late that night, after returning from Koraya Square where the Red Banner Black Sea Navy Song and Dance Company was giving a farewell concert, I took these books with me to my cabinet. There were six thick volumes from the two ships.

There are many beautiful notes in these: wishes for happiness to the Soviet people, support for their peaceful policies, expressions of confidence that friendship and cooperation between the USSR and Greece would strengthen and develop. A few, actually two or three, notes were hostile. Although very seldom, one meets restrained and aloof people.

"We hope that your cannon never fire," wrote someone.

What the...Soviet sailors also hope that their cannon and missiles will be used only in training. And our country is doing everything possible for this. But let no one hope that at a hostile strike our weapons and rockets will not be able to answer with a well-aimed covering salvo.

From the books it is clear that more than Greek citizens visited the ships. "Maybe your visit to Greece will help improve mutual understanding among all

European countries," wrote a captain in the Royal British Air Force. "Please come to visit us," wrote Argentine Jose Mendoza.

After closing the books I went up to the upper deck and walked to the stern where the blue and white naval flag with its red star, illuminated by floodlights, was tossed about by an increasingly strong wind. During a visit to a foreign port the flag remains in the flagstaff 24 hours a day.

The lights of Piraeus merge with those of Athens, rise up to the heavens and become luminous dust, and suddenly I want to make out the window of Takid Afrakic, unknown to me, who wrote these simple words in the opinion book: "You have good ships and you maintain them well, and it is suddenly apparent that you are good, kind people."

12511

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STRATEGIC ROCKET FORCES

COLONEL GENERAL VISHNEKOV ON IDEOLOGICAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF STAFF OFFICERS

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Sep 83 p 2

[Article by Colonel General V. Vishnekov, chief of main staff, Strategic Rocket Forces: "Staff Officer Efficiency, Cadre Work"]

[Text] Speakers at the June (1983) CPSU Central Committee plenum pointed to the need everywhere to maintain a Leninist style in our work—a style at once business-like, creative and innovative, a style permeated by high levels of ideological awareness, a style which will not allow one to become reconciled to anything outdated and a style which will not tolerate influences running counter to the norms of socialist morality or the collectivist way of life. What the party requires is a guide to action for our military cadres as well.

The Strategic Rocket Forces have developed and trained no small number of staff officers who, under the direction of their commanders and in close contact with political personnel and party organizations, are proving successful in training and educating their own personnel and serving as skillful, effective organizers of efforts to achieve higher levels of combat readiness and tighter military discipline. These cadres distinguish themselves by their thorough ideological and professional training, firm adherence to party principle and a constant drive to improve their own style of work.

What does it mean for a staff officer, whose daily routine consists in the highest degree of creative activity, to improve his style of work? It means above all an effort to increase his efficiency, to demonstrate a sense of responsibility in discharging assigned duties, organize his activities on a scientific basis and to be able at any given moment to identify precisely the links in the chain of organization, control and supervision which insure practical success.

One of the most important indicators characterizing a staff officer's efficiency is how effectively he works with personnel within his organization. Now some officers might say: "But I'm an inspector. My job is to inspect and evaluate—what's so difficult about that?" At first glance there really isn't anything difficult involved here. For as we all know, to ask is not to have to answer. The performance of people in this kind of inspector's role is, to a certain extent, by definition proper and correct. But how great is the return they can show for their efforts? The inspector, as they say, can come and go, but it's the people left behind who have to remedy all the deficiencies he points out. How to do this better and faster? If a staff officer remains only a passive outside observer

and does not trouble himself to provide commanders soundly based, expert recommendations for increasing the effectiveness of their training programs and tightening up military discipline within their organizations, recommendations based upon thorough analysis of the quality of the training, drilling and indoctrination they are providing, then it would be difficult to expect that the state of affairs within a unit would take a turn for the better after an inspection like this.

The right to conduct inspections is an important one, a right that carries with it responsibilities. It should always be kept in mind that in discharging our duties within our organizations we are not only inspecting, but are ourselves being examined as well. The job of staff representatives cannot in any inspection situation be reduced simply to pointing out what's bad about this and what's good about that. The inspector must throughout the inspection maintain his orientation toward the primary objective involved here—precise identification of things that can be done to improve the training, education and combat readiness of the troops. This necessarily involves a study of the art of inspection and supervision. A continuous and systematic study of both how to prepare and organize for discharging these responsibilities and the proper methods and procedures to employ.

The analysis the main staff undertook of the combat training conducted over the last months of the summer training period showed that one of the reasons certain subunits are marking time is to be discovered not only in the lack of experience of their young commanders, but in the style of their staff work as well. Here and there, it was discovered, the training given our staff officers has only the most tenuous connection with the really urgent questions associated with the task of organizing a program of training and education and competition; staff specialists will therefore occasionally have only the haziest of conceptions of the proper way to discharge their functions as overseers, what the end product of an inspection should be and of how they should go about rendering effective assistance to commanders.

Practical experience accumulated by our leading staff organizations demonstrates that visits by specialists to the various troop units prove to be truly effective only when they have been preceded by thorough preparation. We should give particular attention to this point, because you will sometimes have occasion to hear somebody say such things as that staff people, why, these are usually going to be officers who have had a lot of experience within individual unit organizations as well as at staff level and so, these people will say, you don't really have to teach people like this what to inspect and how to inspect it. This is a fundamental misconception. For the fact is that no two inspections are exactly alike. Each one is going to have its own unique objectives and tasks and so will require an individually tailored approach when it comes to the organization and methods of conducting it.

This is precisely the basis officer I. Morozov proceeds upon each time he prepares to visit a unit. The team prepares a plan and a program to govern the work of the commission, defines the role and functions of each inspector and selects the guiding documentation and accompanying literature. Members of the inspection team then go through a course of instruction, to include instructional methods instruction, and then take examinations.

Thanks to this careful preparation, these staff officers will arrive at a unit with a clear conception of the objectives of the inspection they are to conduct and of the principles which are to govern their approach. Things accordingly go smoothly and successfully for them. They conclude their inspections with an expertly conducted critique, which is based upon the wealth of factual material accumulated in the course of the inspection and is especially practical in nature. The critique provides an opportunity for the team to get some feedback, to get a feel for the attitudes people have toward the results of the inspection and the job the team did. It is at the same time a chance for exchanges of practical experience, and from this the inspectors can get a clear idea of what aspects of this experience it would be to advantage to put to use in other units and sub-units.

An inspection team headed by officer Morozov recently visited X unit. It looked carefully at the state of training demonstrated by the crews and individual specialists. Team members did not limit themselves to this, however. They went into the training classrooms, the barracks and the mess hall to meet and speak confidentially with people.

Now it might occur to someone to ask the question: "Isn't all this a little too much? Or could it possibly be that the inspectors had too much time on their hands and that this allowed them the luxury of having all these heart-to-heart chit-chats?" No, it of course wasn't that the team had too much time on its hands. The fact of the matter is, rather, that they always manage to set aside an hour or so during their jam-packed working day to visit a party or Komsomol meeting or to go into the barracks to get better acquainted with the people in the unit. This has always made it possible for the inspectors to address the recommendations they make during the critique to a specific individual or individuals.

Kindly understanding and attentiveness to people in the course of an inspection, qualities characteristic of the communist Morozov and the officers of the team he leads, have nothing whatsoever in common with any liberalism or indulgent attitudes. Inspectors evaluate everything rigorously, adhering to principle, placing the immediate situation in a larger, more general context.

Military practice, as we know, comprises a whole complex of processes, events and phenomena. The essential nature of these things and the interrelationships between them are not surface phenomena. To "dig them out" requires deep and comprehensive study and comprehension of what is involved in the life and training of a particular unit or subunit in all their diversity. It is precisely this kind of approach which makes it possible not only to evaluate properly the state of affairs prevailing today and eliminate the causes of negative phenomena in a timely manner, but also to foresee the future course of developments and to introduce the fruits of innovative thinking into daily practice.

Now you would think all this would be obvious to everybody. But when you talk to some staff officers and ask them, for example, what from their fund of experience in organizing training and education programs and competition they would consider usefully innovative or of promise as an aid to growth and improvement, you will not always get a good, thorough answer to your question. The officer's superiors, though, have praised the man to the skies as a dedicated, businesslike sort. But how can you consider a staff officer a dedicated, businesslike, efficient staff

man if the new and innovative escape him and he fails to show the necessary interest in the development and introduction of the fruits of innovative thinking into daily practice?

Staff officer V. Protsenko, for example, spent several days in a unit studying its discipline and its training and education programs. The report he wrote up after he got back to headquarters enumerated a great many things, both positive and negative. But what lay behind them? How are we to explain shortcomings in efforts to tighten discipline in some subunits but then success in similar efforts in others. Comrade Protsenko had a hard time giving a clear answer to these questions. Mainly because he had failed to get to the heart of these problems and contented himself with only superficial evaluations.

Here is only one example. One of the subunits officer Protsenko inspected was concentrating its attention primarily on insuring that all personnel punctually follow the daily routine. This, however, is only one aspect, one side of an overall effort to maintain tight discipline and good organization. If a subunit does everything in strict accordance with established procedure but its activities are poorly organized and conducted on a low level, the problem is not really one of simply eliminating the elements of laxness and poor organization. The most important, most essential task is to insure that these activities are made as effective as possible and that each individual is putting forth his best effort within his own section. It will be with precisely this kind of approach that a serviceman will develop the habit of valuing each minute of training time at its maximum and of adhering to regulation requirements in everything he does.

This particular subunit, unfortunately, was not taking all this into full account. This was what accounted for the deficiencies in its education program and the weak spots in its military discipline. Officer Protsenko, however, lost sight of these things; he didn't think they were important. In the course of his work at the unit, he failed to notice something else—the positive experience in strengthening military discipline which had been gained by other subunits. Subunit commander Captain V. Solov'yev, for example, turned for support to his party and Komsomol organization; this enabled him to unify his organization, which is now a match for any task. It comes as no coincidence that this subunit has earned the "outstanding" designation for the third year in a row now.

Where did Captain Solov'yev begin? With insistence that all his men adhere punctually to the subunit's daily routine. But he didn't stop there. The subunit launched a major effort which involved given proper emphasis to the organization and maintenance of an exemplary internal subunit administration. Officers and NCOs covered the subject of disciplinary practice in the course of instructional methods and demonstration exercises.

In organizing all these activities and making this effort, the subunit proceeded on the basis of the fact that a concern for strict discipline means a concern as well for a healthy life within the organization, good opportunities for rest and relaxation and for the all-around development of the individual soldier.

So now how was it that all this escaped officer Protsenko? Was it because he simply failed to discharge the responsibility with which he had been entrusted conscientiously? No, he's an efficient, painstaking worker with a solid store of

knowledge. The problem is that he's still a little short on experience; he lacks an ability to take a broad, general look at the events and phenomena of everyday life, to put everything in proper proportion and then on this basis to draw principled conclusions and formulate penetrating generalizations. Being from the unit, Comrade Protsenko had worked only within his own narrow area, that is, "from here to there," and so had never really "dug down" to the essential realities involved.

It should always be borne in mind that a staff officer, whether he deals with combat training, equipment operation or any other field, cannot in this position remain a narrowly focused specialist. His mission at this level is more involved and more important. It consists in probing thoroughly during his inspections and work within an organization into matters connected with troop training and education and the organization of socialist competition, in uncovering deficiencies and recommending ways to remedy them and in disseminating and introducing new and innovative thinking and practice. For the staff officer this is at the same time a good school for improving professional skills, what with the fact that he makes contact here with all the advances and innovations in current military practice.

Officers who have only recently been advanced into staff positions require particular attention. Senior officers will have to help them develop a taste for staff work and instill in them the proper drives and desires so as to eliminate any inclination to rest content with past achievements, work systematically to develop their mastery of Marxist-Leninist theory and improve their operational-tactical, military technical and specialized training and preparation as well as the methods they employ in their organizational work. To accomplish this is to tap still another important reserve for increasing combat readiness.

8963

CSO: 1801/037

SPECIAL TROOPS

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION TROOPS ENCOUNTER EQUIPMENT REPAIR PROBLEMS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Oct 83 p 2

[Article by Colonel A. Drovosekov: "Bulldozer on Call"]

[Text] "I can fix you up with a bulldozer," came the voice over the telephone.

It was a tempting offer. A bulldozer, now, is really something. Just to be on the safe side, though, and in the hope of being able to get hold of something else a little more substantial, I ask this unknown benefactor:

"Now, would you also have a trench digger? The troops are digging a ditch under the windows of the editorial office and they're having to do it all by hand...."

"I don't have a trench digger right now. Take the bulldozer, otherwise it's just going to go to waste; it's a discard anyway. But I'd advise you to hurry it up, otherwise everything'll be gone except for the useless odds and ends...."

As it in fact turned out, however, there wasn't any bulldozer there. I found it at its own vehicle and machinery pool where it had been sent after the call to the editors described above. It wasn't the DT-75 I had been promised, that's true, but rather the pitiful remains of one, a look at which was enough to plunge me into a deep sadness and which insistently drove me to search for the parties responsible. This, however, proved to be a fairly difficult task....

Military construction specialist Private N. Il'chenko, to whom the bulldozer had been assigned, declared that he wasn't the one who had turned the machine into a useless piece of metal junk. The whole problem started when the idler wheel bearing was destroyed while the bulldozer was being used as a towing vehicle, a role it is not cut out to play. With the permission of his section chief, N. Zadnischanskiy, Il'chenko set out for the motor pool to pick up another one; he returned the next day, took a look at the bulldozer and was absolutely thunderstruck. Vandals had "worked on it" over night so expertly and thoroughly that it would now require major restorative repairs. Il'chenko reported what had happened to A. Gagarin, the man at the motor and machinery pool in charge of bulldozers and excavation machinery. Gagarin, of course, was very concerned and said he would have the bulldozer brought to the motor pool and in the meantime put the now "horseless" operator to work in the metalworking shop.

After my conversation with Il'chenko I began to think none other than A. Gagarin was primarily responsible for what had happened, what with the fact that it took him so long to get the bulldozer back from the work site.

"Of course I'm at fault, but not very much," Aleksandr Alekseyevich insisted. "That's a wet, swampy place out there, and then the rain came.... My supervisors were on top of the situation."

There was nothing else to do at this point—I go to see the motor pool's chief engineer, Major Engineer V. Kartashov.

"According to the obligations in the agreements involved, the customer, that is, the organization we release a machine to, is responsible for taking care of it at the work site. Colonel Engineer O. Martyagin's work supervisor's section in this case."

This explanation from the chief engineer was just the spark that instantly illuminated in my memory the resolution V. Kartashov had appended to N. Il'chenko's report on the removal of those parts from the bulldozer by unknown individuals. This resolution, it is true, made its appearance only two months and more after this had happened. It read as follows: "Comrade Ye. A. Kurkov: This bulldozer is still out at the work site. Prepare a complaint and then take immediate steps to repair the thing. Report. 8-8-83."

By this time, however, there was nothing left to repair. The machine had been completely cannibalized, as they say. The situation dictated the need to file a claim against the customer for compensation for the loss sustained by the motor pool. Was this what was done?

"No, the bulldozer was simply written off," the chief engineer told me comfortingly.

So now what are we to say to this? No more than that the people here were guided by some peculiar conceptions. Once the machine had been written off, they figured, it would be as if it were no longer state property, but rather an unclaimed, ownerless piece of property. So it got stolen piece by piece—and that was that. And what claims could you file against the people who had taken it out? Why complicate your relations with them? Let's just file the papers away and that'll be the end of the matter.

And file them away they did. But this bulldozer would still have had lots of good work left in it if it had not been left to the whims of fate by both the people who had leased it and the one who owned it.

I thought at first that this incident would be only an unfortunate exception. But the more I familiarized myself with the documents so kindly placed at my disposal by A. Gagarin, the more clearly the full dimensions of the problem became apparent. The problem of taking proper care and making proper use of equipment. From the mountain of explanatory notes, documents and reports before me there was obviously no end to the cases in which substantial damage had been done to equipment because of failure to take proper care of it. Damage like this was done, for example, to an excavation machine and two bulldozers released to the military construction

organization headed by Colonel Engineer V. Voronkov. The starting motor and some tools were stolen from the excavator, which was being operated by the work supervisor's section headed by Colonel Engineer V. Sinitisa. The seats and some tools were removed from the bulldozer, which was then in the hands of V. Tikhnov's construction and installation directorate. And so forth and so on.

It should be pointed out that it's not always the outsiders who are damaging our equipment. A. Zavragin, for example, a bulldozer operator working in Captain Engineer V. Borisov's section, showed up for work one day and found that he was unable to decide whether it was his machine there or not. It was all beat up, and parts of it had been stripped off. Upon closer inspection it turned out that it was indeed his, Zavragin's, bulldozer; but somebody else had gotten hold of it and the thing had developed problems. Somebody suddenly had to have something to tow one of the supply trucks one night. But then, because of the wrongheadedness of somebody in Senior Lieutenant Engineer V. Mukonin's section, the engine on the pipelayer threw a rod.

Now let's take a look at another side of the problem—the way equipment is being used. It will happen that a piece of equipment will arrive at a work site, but then, as is occasionally the case, it turns out that there isn't anything to use it for just then. Our N. Il'chenko, for example, never once given specific instructions for a specific day's work the whole time he was working in N. Zadnischanskiy's section. Together with his bulldozer he was, as they say, just "available." Private A. Krysov, the military construction specialist who replaced him, had so much "work" to do that one day he was spotted doing work he was getting paid for in a neighboring village...levelling roads.

By way of contrast with Krysov's situation, A. Solov'yev, a pipelayer operator working in Soviet Army employee V. Anfilov's section, seemed never to be able to get a minute's rest. He would put 20 kilometers a day on an enormous, 35-ton capacity machine, when according to instructions he wasn't supposed to drive it any more than 1 kilometer. Not to lay pipes, it's true, but rather to haul them. Nobody paid any attention to Solov'yev's objections, the upshot being that this costly machine, not even a year old at this point, finally lost its battle with the gooey swamp and the overloads it had to carry. The engine and running gear finally went. When I asked him when the repair work would be finished, he replied uncertainly: "When we can get a crankshaft...."

On the whole, the repair people have enough work to do. They have plenty to worry about, too, because the problem of spare parts, which are given out strictly according to norm, remains a problem. They run themselves silly trying to find a gear they need, while the people responsible for the fact that the thing was removed from a particular machine or broken in the first place don't care a whit. The motor pool accounting office supplied me with the following piece of information: during the years 1981 and 1982, equipment lessees who failed to take proper care of their leased equipment did not pay a plug nickel in compensation for the damage they caused!

We are hardly likely to see any compensation being paid this year either, what with the fact that the motor pool and the construction work supervisors' sections are all part of a single organization, and family feuds are always awkward affairs. Then on top of that it should be pointed out that to fill out all the paperwork

involved in filing a claim against your customers is always a troublesome, time-consuming business. You have to have an explanation on paper from the equipment operator and then a report concerning the incident signed by either the foreman or the section chief. But now these are people intelligent enough to realize that the report on a vandalized, cannibalized vehicle isn't going to be a recommendation for any award, so it's not by any means going to be a picnic trying to get their signature on anything.

Another remarkable fact is that not a single incident involving the theft of tools or equipment from this machinery or its gradual cannibalization and vandalizing by all kinds of malicious individuals, the sort of troublemaker who gets the same kind of satisfaction out of cutting the receivers out of pay telephone booths and breaking out the headlights on a bulldozer, not a single one of these incidents has ever been followed up by a written report to the judge advocate. In the meantime, in each one of these cases a vehicle will, as a rule, be idled 2-3 days or longer. Now, if we add to the cost of the idle time the cost of the repairs and spare parts we'll get the total economic loss the state suffers from the carelessness and unconcern of some of our comrades.

You don't have to be a wizard to penetrate to the real causes of this state of affairs. They are to be found in the absence of exactingness, which in turn leads to irresponsibility. For the fact is that if there were a strict system of personal accountability, if people had to pay for damage and losses suffered by the state out of their own pocket, you would hardly find anyone forgetting about a piece of equipment just because it had been written off, anyone who would fail to take proper care of an excavator or allow a bulldozer or a 35-ton pipe layer to be used to go odd-jobbing.

Nor, of course, would there be telephone calls to the editors with suggestions that something be made available in the way of excavation equipment.

8963
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TRAINING EXERCISE FOR CONVOY DRIVERS

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 13 Nov 83 p 3

[Article by V. Pimenov, senior foreman of production training of Riga Motor Vehicle School No 1: "The Foreman's Rostrum: March-Tested"]

[Text] It was a bleak morning, of which there are many in the Baltic in autumn. The school's measured rhythm of life was interrupted by an assembly signal. The cadets filled the motor pool literally in a few minutes. A multi-kilometer march lay ahead on that day.

Column movement obligates a driver to move at a specific, preset speed, strictly keep his place en route and execute commands and signals passed along the column.

This march was a continuation of training which began in classrooms, on simulators, in laboratories and at the motor vehicle training area. The persons authorized to participate were those who had mastered the curriculum fully, studied vehicle design, practiced driving exercises and received skills in vehicular maintenance.

They prepared for departure carefully. Instructors and foremen held talks with the cadets, told them about the importance of the march for perfecting knowledge and skills and about possible difficulties en route, and reminded them of the requirements of traffic safety rules. March missions were discussed at meetings of Komsomol groups and cadets. Special issues of operational news-sheets and wall newspapers were published. Much attention was devoted to strict fulfillment of safety measures. They dwelled once again on such points as maintaining the prescribed speed and distance, moving along the right side of the road, and immediate execution of all signals and commands given by the column commander.

The forming up and extending of the column are very important and difficult for the cadet. Therefore, we are not sparing of time for practicing these elements. We see to it that every cadet firmly learns his vehicle's serial number in the column. We check speed and precision in executing the signals: "Fall in by Your Vehicles!", "Mount!", "Start up!", "Stop Engine!", "Advance!" and "Form Column!" We practiced simultaneously moving out in pairs.

We also persistently practiced giving and executing the signals: "Open Out!", "Close Up!", "Halt!" and others. We conduct classes on studying the signals with an entire group. Experience shows that with this method it is not difficult for the cadets to master the exercises.

Then came the day of the test.

"Fall in by Your Vehicles!" came the column commander's order.

The students acted quickly and without fuss. It took a matter of minutes for the column of motor vehicles to move out and push along the previously developed route.

The faces of A. Vishnevskiy, V. Birgelis, V. Shirshov and their comrades were attentive and concentrated. The cadets constantly watched the readings of the speedometer counter in order to know at any moment how far they already had gone, how much distance remained to the destination and how much fuel there was, and to determine their location.

Production training foremen V. Boychenkov, Yu. Moroz, V. Mishin and others were in the cabs next to the cadets. They carefully watched their students' actions. These were experienced driving teachers, people with detailed theoretical knowledge and practical skills and who had driven many thousands of kilometers in various makes of vehicles. They pass on their knowledge to cadets with great willingness and pedagogic tact.

The lads took the first difficult test right when they emerged on the city street. They had to make a right turn and join the line of moving vehicles. The foremen carefully observed their students' actions. There were not yet any criticisms. The lads were driving the practice vehicles competently and coolly. The red lights--turn and brake indicators--were flashing almost continuously.

The foremen reminded the cadets to keep an eye on changes in the traffic situation and instrument readings. They accustomed them not to look at the controls as they used them, to heed the rhythm of the engine and other machinery and to pick up strange noises in their operation.

GAI [State Motor Vehicle Inspectorate] workers stopped a driver who had violated traffic rules on one of the streets. A damaged "Volga" was being towed at another location. The foremen did not ignore these phenomena and reminded the future drivers what a lack of discipline behind the wheel might lead to. When the vehicles were outside the city the teachers asked the cadets what difficulties there had been on their route and what reference points, traffic signals and signs they had seen. The foremen were trying to develop their powers of observation, eye estimation and visual memory.

They devote much attention to developing the cadets' resourcefulness and creative abilities. To this end they introduce elements of surprise into the training and prompt the students to take independent actions. And so it was this time as well. One foreman disconnected a storage battery from the current

consumers, another shut off the fuel tank valve unnoticed, while still another placed a faulty fuse in the fuse unit terminals. The carburetor throttle valve linkage was disconnected and a faulty distributor rotor was inserted. The cadets themselves located these malfunctions, remedied them, and prepared themselves for independent work.

During column movement the road is concealed almost all the while by the vehicles ahead and a majority of obstacles appear suddenly. But the lads were on guard, constantly ready to change speed and direction of movement. The cadets had been accustomed to taking precautionary steps promptly and to opening the cab door and emerging from the vehicles correctly. They switched the turn indicators on and off promptly and kept an eye on an overtaking vehicle.

Now and then along the route the director would complicate the situation by changing the tactical background. They had to cross a "center of contamination," perform measures for partial chemical decontamination of equipment and personal decontamination, and repulse an attack by an "enemy" sabotage group. The draftees functioned cohesively, in concert, and knowledgeably in this difficult tactical situation as well.

Then they performed vehicle maintenance in the field, refueled and again set off.

Then came the sharp turn which the column commander had mentioned in the briefing. The vehicles made one other difficult turning maneuver here under conditions of limited visibility.

The cadets were on the march for several hours and they passed the important exam with honor. In the critique the school chief took note of the novices' higher schooling, the high discipline and efficiency, and the ability to overcome difficulties encountered en route. There were no traffic accidents on the march.

The persons who distinguished themselves most were commended and the wall newspaper told about them.

I would like to dwell briefly on control of the march. Performance of the assigned mission by the motor vehicle subunit depends on how quickly and precisely particular instructions or commands are given to the column. In our training organizations all signals are given by small flags from the cab. This is inconvenient because at times they are not visible. The time has come to introduce radio control on the march. But as of today the DOSAAF schools training category "S" vehicle drivers do not have that capability. It is time to resolve this matter. Use of radios will make classes even more meaningful and interesting, and their effectiveness and quality will be increased greatly.

6904

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MILITARY INCREASES DEMANDS ON EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 16 Nov 83 p 2

[Article by F. Shtykalo, deputy minister of education of the USSR: "Train Reliable Defenders for the Motherland"]

[Text] The pedagogic collectives of schools of general education perceived with great satisfaction results of work by the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee Plenum. The status of ideological work among the masses was subjected to a detailed analysis there. Particular attention was given to the need for developing communist conviction and patriotism in the growing generation.

"The party is trying to ensure that we do not bring up a person simply as the carrier of a certain sum of knowledge, but above all as a citizen of the socialist society and an active builder of communism with the ideological lines, morality, interests, and high culture of labor and conduct inherent to such a person," said Comrade Yu. V. Andropov in a speech at the Plenum.

The party always has shown concern for the growing generation and continues to do so. The fact is that in the very near future today's schoolchildren will have to assume responsibility for the Motherland's historic destiny. This is why the question of instilling political vigilance in our youth, their participation in strengthening national defenses, and a further improvement in preparation of young lads for service in the Army and Navy is so acute today. Much is demanded of every upperclass student, the future defender of the Motherland. This includes ideological conviction, firm knowledge on the principles of sciences and basic military training, and firm physical conditioning.

The earth long ago concealed the past war's traces, but we return again and again to events of 40 years ago, to memory of the war. We return because all generations of Soviet citizens, both the present and future generations, must remember and know this.

But memory alone is not enough today. We must improve significantly and raise to a new, higher level the military-patriotic indoctrination of the student youth and results of the work to prepare young people for service in the Armed Forces.

Military instructors in the majority of secondary schools basically cope successfully with the tasks assigned them. Many of them went down the stern roads of the Great Patriotic War and gave decades to service in the Army. They selflessly give of their knowledge and experience to the work of preparing the young generation to defend the Motherland, and they are fulfilling their patriotic duty with honor.

Lt Col (Res) Vasilii Grigor'yevich Chalenko has worked as a military instructor for many years in the 20th Secondary School of the city of Nikolayev. He has created an excellent training facility for basic military training: a well-outfitted military training room, weapon training classroom and guard compound. There are two indoor ranges, four radios and the necessary training weapons and military gear. A combat glory room has been opened at the school with the help of the Komsomol and DOSAAF committees. Several defense circles in which more than 300 pupils train have been set up here. This year alone 18 graduates entered military educational institutions. Chalenko was awarded the USSR DOSAAF Honor Badge for successes in the military-patriotic indoctrination of pupils and in preparing young people for military service, and he is an outstanding person in public education of the Ukrainian SSR.

Col (Res) N. Kachugin, military instructor of the 121st School of the city of Rinsk, Lt Col (Res) L. Kuznetsov, military instructor at the 80th School of the city of Novosibirsk, Maj (Res) A. Tverikin, military instructor of the 19th School of the city of Petrozavodsk and many others perform extensive and diverse work in basic military training.

A majority of military instructors conduct classes at a high methods level and strive for high discipline and efficiency in their lessons. A certain qualitative improvement in the training work in basic military training has been noted of late.

But from year to year the Army places higher and higher requirements on the pupils' knowledge, and not only in basic military training but also in subjects of the physicomathematical series, history, social science, chemistry, biology and Russian. Assurance of profound, firm knowledge in these subjects depends on the pedagogic collective as a whole, but even here the military instructor's organizing role is preserved. He has to ensure intersubject ties in specific topics of particular disciplines with the basic military training course. That is just what is done by Col (Res) Vasilii Makarovich Bondarenko, military instructor at the 7th Secondary School from the city of Baltiysk. It is no accident that his students invariably receive high grades in military educational institutions to which more than 20 of this school's graduates go yearly. There are praises for students of the Baltiysk 7th School in the military units where they are serving as well. Col (Res) B. Rodionov, military instructor of the Kiev 2d School, Col (Res) S. Shakorov, military instructor at the Gomel 3d School, and others strive for firm knowledge in basic military training.

A knowledge of the Russian language is of great importance for preparing young people for service in the Army and Navy. It is generally known that combat and political training in the Armed Forces is conducted in Russian, and military regulations and manuals are written in this same language.

The quality of the training process and students' knowledge and skills in NVP [basic military training] in the schools, especially with a non-Russian language for training, are determined to a significant extent by the level of fluency in Russian both of the pupils and the military instructors.

The experience of D. Dzhamalov, military instructor at the Namangan 27th School, is indicative in this respect. He sets aside a portion of the time in every lesson for an explanation and summary by students of a certain number of military terms, gradually building up a lexicographic reserve permitting successful assimilation of training material. Dzhamalov uses various methods and techniques, visual aids and technical training means for this. All this contributes to the students' development of conversational speech in Russian. The military instructor arranges his work in close cooperation with the Russian language teacher.

At the same time, graduates of some schools in the republics of the Transcaucasus and Central Asia, especially in the rural areas, are insufficiently fluent in Russian and in this connection they experience difficulty in personal contact between nationalities and in production and sociopolitical work.

The quality of pupils' knowledge is determined largely by the presence of an appropriate training facility. Creation and skilled use of a training facility for NVP allows many military instructors to ensure a high level in conducting classes and the students' firm knowledge and skills. Schools of Moldavia and of Andizhan and Namangan oblasts of Uzbekistan have achieved noticeable success in outfitting military training rooms. More than 70 percent of schools in Belorussia and in the Ukraine have well outfitted indoor ranges, as do a majority of schools of the oblasts, krays and autonomous republics of the RSFSR. Unfortunately, the schools of Georgia and Tajikistan are lagging in this regard.

DOSAAF committees, training organizations and technical sports clubs provide much help in the basic military training of pupils and in setting up technical circles and sections in technical and applied military sports. This was one of the subjects at an interesting discussion at the 9th All-Union DOSAAF Congress. Its resolution states: "Be more active in helping schools of general education and educational institutions in the further improvement of basic military training of pupils and in preparing young people for military service."

Unfortunately, the instructors of some schools and the military instructors do not always make use of DOSAAF help and do not display proper persistence in setting up technical circles and sports sections.

Wonderful traditions of heroic-patriotic work and of indoctrinating schoolchildren in the revolutionary, combat and labor traditions of the CPSU, Soviet people and USSR Armed Forces have formed in many schools in the country. The role of party, war and labor veterans is inestimable here.

Many schoolchildren take part in the "Great Patriotic Annals" and "My Motherland the USSR" All-Union Search Expeditions and in the "Olenok" and "Zarnitsa"

military sports games. Military instructors perform extensive work to set up combat glory museums, halls and rooms. These have been opened in almost 37,000 schools.

But the effectiveness of various forms of military-patriotic indoctrination is not yet always high enough. The June CPSU Central Committee Plenum spoke about deficiencies in the work of civic development of some boys and girls. In order to develop an active position in life in every schoolchild nothing can be put off "for later," everything must be done promptly. But proper attention is not being given everywhere to propaganda of the Soviet way of life among the student youth. The work of instilling high political vigilance in schoolchildren and exposing the ideological subversions of imperialist intelligence agencies is not always conducted convincingly and persistently. The fight against displays of narrowmindedness in a portion of the schoolchildren is not being conducted effectively enough.

Military-patriotic work plans often are drawn up by military instructors without consideration of the pupils' free time, age features, needs and interests.

Much effort must be spent to prepare the Motherland's future defender. The important thing, of course, is to provide detailed knowledge and firm skills. But our Armed Forces also are strong in the physical conditioning of the soldiers and in their endurance and courage. Gymnastics before the beginning of classes, physical culture pauses during lessons, and daily activities in extended-day groups have been introduced as mandatory to the school's training day in addition to physical culture lessons. Physical culture teachers are obligated to instruct pupils on how to perform particular exercises during nonclass time and at home. We must ensure that every pupil realizes that strengthening the health, physical conditioning, and forming character and will represent his civil duty.

Workers of schools and education agencies are faced with difficult and responsible tasks for further improving basic military training and the military-patriotic indoctrination of pupils. The tasks must be accomplished under the direction of party and soviet entities in close contact with trade union and Komsomol organizations and relying on the help and support of military commissariats and DOSAAF committees. Every member of the pedagogic collective and all military instructors and activists of defense organizations must remember that the Motherland needs reliable defenders and worthy heirs to the grand traditions of older generations.

6904

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DOSAAF

OVERZEALOUS WHISTLEBLOWER REPROACHED

Moscow SOVETSKIY PATRIOT in Russian 23 Nov 83 p 3

[Article by SOVETSKIY PATRIOT special correspondent A. Sharapov, city of Vyazma, Smolensk Oblast: "Returning to a Previous Article: Impunity Guaranteed"]

[Text] When it was learned that instructor I. Udaloy's training group came out worst of all in taking graduation exams--it had received seven "unsatisfactories"--the school chief was sincerely grieved by this. He called Udaloy in and instructed him:

"Draw up a schedule and tomorrow, Ivan Vasil'yevich, begin supplementary classes."

The instructor paled. Then he demonstratively sat down, took a sheet of paper and, unhurriedly producing each letter, he wrote: "Request regular leave..."

"For whom?" asked the chief.

"What do you mean for whom? For me, of course."

The chief sighed and silently signed the request. Someone else had to finish teaching Udaloy's group. Three months later, after the pedagogic council discussed results of the last training year, an order was issued that stated that "Comrade Udaloy worked unsatisfactorily." This wording made him indignant.

"Are you continuing to take revenge?"

Before looking into who was right, the chief or the subordinate, we obviously should recall events of two years ago. The editors at that time received from I. Udaloy a very anxious letter which was touching in the attempt to help his collective: "The heads of the Vyazma Motor Vehicle School engage in addition, pay money to figureheads and abuse official position."

These facts were confirmed. *SOVETSKIY PATRIOT* published its article entitled "Zigzags on the Straight Stretch," which sharply criticized the deficiencies which were revealed. Soon the Society's Smolensk Office announced: "The newspaper's article was deemed correct. The training organization's activity is under special monitoring." Recently the officers decided to see how the collective of the motor vehicle school now was working and what changes had occurred there.

There were many changes. The previous school chief had been released and a new one appointed, L. Dantilenkov. Violations of finance discipline had been eradicated fully, motor vehicles were being used only for training specialists and construction of a training building was under way with the first floor already built. A cadet dormitory soon would be located nearby.

It is true that other insignificant facts also were learned. The conduct of Udalov himself changed sharply after the newspaper article. He held a very strange position, to put it mildly. Ivan Vasil'yevich would take any critical remark or just reproach with extreme irritation and view it as a grievous insult: "One only has to criticize and then, you see, you begin to be persecuted and degraded in every way." Moreover, he began to coddle all dissatisfied or, more precisely, malicious violators of discipline.

Such a dissatisfied person was former Kuzhenkov, who a half-year ago refused to perform an assignment from the school chief. He was reprimanded. Then Udalov intervened and demanded that a commission be formed which would appeal the administration's actions as illegal. But facts are stubborn things and the city people's court which examined this conflict deemed that Kuzhenkov had been punished correctly.

Ivan Vasil'yevich also took instructor Smirnov under his protection. Once Dantilenkov had instructed him to go on urgent duty to obtain a programmed training classroom. Viktor Stepanovich offered to go albeit with the strange condition that he be paid for seven hours each day according to his instructor wage scale grouping.

"It's impossible. That's a violation of the law," responded the school chief.

"Then obtain this classroom yourself," snapped Smirnov.

Here is another curious fact. Smirnov's workday rather often would last only four hours. He would conduct classes prescribed by the schedule and quietly go home. When he was told that if a "windup" appeared an instructor was to use this time to renew classroom visual aids, compile methods elaborations and submit logbooks, the answer always was the same: "Pay and then of course I will do it."

For the last two years Udalov was writing "accusatory" letters to the city procurator, to the first secretary of the party's Vyazma Gorkom, to the chairman of the Society's Smolensk Office and to the commander of the military district... All complaints ended approximately identically: "Look into it and defend my good name."

The school was feverish. Various commissions would arrive almost monthly and check out every call meticulously. Alas, it was learned very quickly that some deficiencies described by Udaloy had been remedied long ago right after the newspaper's article. Other "fresher" facts (such as that workers of the training organization were misappropriating) were unsubstantiated. Such a result wounded Udaloy's heightened egotism and then the inspectors--reliable and authoritative persons--became the object of his "criticism."

When two volumes of correspondence had accumulated a session was held by the bureau of the Society's Smolensk Obkom Presidium devoted especially to Udaloy's letters. He was granted a hearing but he was silent as there was nothing with which to confirm what he had written.

Sensing that events were taking an undesirable turn, Udaloy decided to change his tactics. It was necessary for someone else to begin to complain and be indignant. Then they would realize "higher up" that he was being supported and that his letters represented the voice of the masses. A suitable candidate also was found--Smirnov. And so they joined up and now complain and find fault together.

Documents of full-scale school inspections repeatedly noted that Udaloy was disrupting the class schedule, using obsolete lesson plans and instead of explaining the material he rather often would lay out question cards before the cadets and order them: "Cram by heart."

In winter the school chief approved a plan for improving the physical facilities which stated clearly what each instructor was to do and when. Udaloy, for example, was given an assignment to install a magnetic board for critiquing various traffic situations. All deadlines already had passed long ago and this instruction still remained unfulfilled. And everything was forgiven Udaloy out of fear that he again would perceive this as persecution for criticism.

Moreover, as stated in the beginning, Danilenkov gave Udaloy leave instead of forcing him to finish teaching the cadets who received "unsatisfactoriness" last summer. Another fact also can be explained by nothing other than lack of desire "to aggravate and heat up" the situation. Once Udaloy was assigned to study the experience of rationalizers in related schools of Bryansk Oblast. TDY was arranged for him and the purpose of the trip was explained in detail... Alas, this assignment too was unfulfilled and again Danilenkov was silent.

It remains only to be perplexed over why Udaloy stubbornly asserts that he is being persecuted and oppressed in every way. The fact is, it is quite the converse, Ivan Vasil'evich. You are committing violations and you are guaranteed impunity.

Udaloy's term as an instructor is approximately 20 years. He has everything: both experience and knowledge. He lacks one thing: the desire to roll up his sleeves and genuinely work. It was difficult to believe that a person who two years ago helped the collective stop an evil now simply is hindering everyone in working quietly.

Something else causes alarm: Danilenkov's indecisiveness and the attempt to cut corners at any cost, which is turning out to be a proper mess for the school, as they say. Without question, Eduard Dmitriyevich still is a young director and has headed the collective only a year. He was left with a difficult legacy. Nevertheless, there is nothing to justify the fact that due to his connivance some workers of the training organization are not fulfilling their official duties.

There is another expression: "It's time to use authority as well." This obviously is what should be recalled now by the school leaders as well as the DUSAAF obkom. The time has come to dot the i's and cross the t's...

6904

TSU: 1801/123

MILITARY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

BASIC TRAINING INADEQUATE AT SOME AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTES

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Nov 83 p 2

[Article by Col (Res) I. Sevryukov, inspector for basic military training of Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Agriculture: "Basic Military Training: Use Reserves More Fully"]

[Text] This year I had occasion to attend field problems in basic military training in a number of agricultural tekhnikums. Many of the activities were disappointing. For example, students in the upper courses at the Borzna Sovkhoz-Tekhnikum were practicing prescribed themes but a check showed that not one of them was capable of telling about the organization of a motorized rifle squad or a soldier's duties in combat, or fulfilling tactical norms. In other words, they were incapable of coping with what was required by the basic military training program. A similar picture was seen at the Glukhov, Berezhan and certain other tekhnikums.

Just why isn't the training time allocated for field activities in basic military training being spent in the best manner? Above all, one has to mention the poor logistical support to field exercises. Is it possible to train future soldiers in individual actions objectively if they have no weapons, gear or means of simulation or, finally, if the terrain has not been organized for this? Moreover, the military instructors have no assistants--squad or platoon commanders. As I noted, that approximately is the state of affairs in many schools of general education as well, where action is replaced by words, and the demonstration and practice is replaced by a narrative.

The fact is, however, that classes in tactical training with future soldiers can be interesting for the youth and can be memorable. This is just the way they were at the Nemeshayevo Sovkhoz-Tekhnikum. Military Inspector V. Peschanskiy established contact in advance with one of the units of the Kiev Garrison. The sponsors assigned an officer to each training platoon and an NCO to each squad. They supplied the future soldiers with practice weapons, blank cartridges, smoke-puff charges, signal flares and smoke pots.

It would appear necessary to study the following problem as well. Why not coordinate the students' field course with the training courses of **university** students? The future reserve officers could hold classes with draftees by performing unique on-the-job training. Military school cadets also could work with teenagers for their own benefit.

In short, there are reserves for improving the basic military training of young people. Everything depends on the attitude toward the work.

6904

CSO: 1801/106

AFGHANISTAN

TASHKENT ON TIES BETWEEN AFGHANS, SOVIETS

GF271541 Tashkent International Service in Uzbek 1700 GMT 22 Nov 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Soviet Fighters in Afghanistan"]

[Text] Dear listeners, HAQIQAT-E SARBAZ, which is printed in Kabul has recently reported on the aid extended by Soviet fighters (cenkciler) to Afghan peasants. The road near the (Oshna-ye Kadin) River was being repaired by a piece of machinery which had been burnt to ashes except for its metal structure. In accordance with the instructions they received from U.S. experts, the bands of robbers sent into Afghanistan from Pakistan had laid mines on the said road. The machine referred to was destroyed by one of them. Thus, a number of villages were supplied with foodstuffs, necessary (?equipment), and [words indistinct] through the road.

The head of the group for safeguarding the revolution in (?Babar) village, which was responsible for the work on the road, moved in to help. He appealed to Soviet fighters manning tanks. He knew that the basmachis had mined several sectors of the road. And, (?tank mechanic) Vitaliy Maksimchev was sent to help the peasants. He was well-trained in detecting and defusing enemy mines. Vitaliy Maksimchev has helped the Afghans on several occasions at the request of his commanders.

Vitaliy Maksimchev removed the first mine which was manufactured in Italy. It was placed in a cavity on the road. Later he removed the second and third mines. After some time the road was cleared of the mines. Nevertheless, one of the drivers of the loaded vehicles parked on the side of the road dared to drive through. Thus, a Soviet military vehicle driven by Vitaliy Maksimchev drove through first. It was followed by the rest of the Afghan vehicles. The people of the villages were impatiently waiting for them. The peasants expressed their gratitude to the Soviet fighters who responded quickly to their call.

This is one of the examples of the help the Soviet fighters have been giving to the friendly Afghan people. Soviet fighters are helping Afghan troops to protect roads and industrial factories against the plots of the (?bands of robbers). They are escorting convoys of vehicles carrying corn, rice and other foodstuffs and necessary equipment to the villages.

Soviet fighters are also helping peasants in repairing farm machinery, preparing land, harvesting, and heaping wood. They are building new hospitals, dwelling quarters, schools, and even mosques and giving them to the Afghans. In addition to this, they are repairing the hospitals, dwelling quarters, schools, and mosques which have been destroyed by the basmachis. All this work is done free of charge. Soviet military doctors are making medical aid available to the people without any charge at all. They are going to the villages and treating the sick. For example, Soviet military doctors have operated on Najibollah, a 9-year-old child, who was in serious condition on 6 March. They continued to treat him for over 6 months. Now he is in sound health.

In the light of the activities of destructive imperialist propaganda and its (?agents) in Pakistan and Iran aimed at creating lack of confidence between the Afghan people and the Soviet military servicemen, this has shown why efforts made in that regard have been a failure and will continue to be as such in the future. The people (?cannot be misled). The people are not satisfied with mere words. They wish to make up their minds on the basis of the work carried out. The Afghans are making up their minds on who their foes and friends are through their own experience. The confidence the Afghan people have in the Soviet fighters is the outcome of the latter's attitude toward justice and toward their relations with the local people. The Soviet fighters greatly respect the Afghan people's traditions, culture, and religion. The leaders and simple workers of that country have talked about this many times.

The troops of the limited number of Soviet units in Afghanistan have always been ready to help their Afghan friends in difficult times. For example, they have helped the people of Qandahar who suffered from floods. Soviet fighters also supplied technical equipment and construction material to the Afghans when floods in Emam Saheb damaged [word indistinct] on Amu Darya and actively participated in repairing the said water installations. Thus, the peasants succeeded in getting irrigation water for their crops. The Afghan press has highly praised the courage of the Soviet fighters who helped the people of Khayyam village [name as heard] which suffered from earth tremors. When a (?fault) developed in the (?fuel supply) complex in Kabul during the strong winter last year, Soviet fighters distributed wood to the people of the city free of charge.

What have been said above brings to mind the reason why the friendship between the Afghan people and the Soviet military servicemen, who have arrived in Afghanistan at the request of the DRA Government to help the Afghan people safeguard law and order and set up a new life with or without observers, is strengthening.

CSO: 1836/30

AFGHANISTAN

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA REPORTS ON MINE CLEARING IN DRA

PM051830 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 30 Nov 83 Second Edition p 2

[Article by own correspondent Lieutenant Colonel V. Skrizhalin under the rubric "The Romance of Military Service": "Five Days"]

[Text] Limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan--my assignment with the sappers was drawing to a close. I still had to chat to the soldiers who had just returned from a mission. Then it suddenly transpired that Private N. Ponomarev, handler of a mine-detecting dog, whom the commander had suggested as one of the heroes of my dispatch, came from the same village as me. We had the usual conversation about service and a sapper's dangerous work. When he learned that I was soon returning home on leave, Nikolay asked:

"You can give Father a detailed account of our service, but don't bother Mom: her health's not good."

I got back to my home village of Kalikino, which is in Lipetsk Oblast. Soon the worried and excited face of Mariya Ivanovna Ponomareva, Nikolay's mother, appeared in the doorway. It seems that as soon as she heard of my arrival, she dropped everything and immediately rushed over from the other end of the village. The first thing she did was to ask:

"How's my Kolya doing over there?"

When I finished my story Mariya Ivanovna, after a moment's silence, said:

"You can't imagine how glad I am that he's fine. I can't complain: he writes me every day. And these little snippets of news let me rest more easily. But just lately I've been worried again: I haven't had a letter from him for 5 days running. I don't know what to think..."

We often talk and write of the strength of a soldier's spirit. What are its sources? It is nourished by school and the Komsomol, and now the army. But the first and perhaps the main qualities were formed in the family and come from the parents. And primarily from the mother.

A mother's strength is manifested in everything. Even in her fear of seeming weak to the son lest his spirits suddenly fail. But the main strength of a soldier's mother is in her innate social maturity and her understanding, though she may not always be able to articulate it, of the public and state importance of the military duty carried out by her son.

Mariya Ivanovna Ponomareva did not make any high falutin remark when I talked to her about her son, who is carrying out his international duty in Afghanistan, thousands of kilometers from his native Lipetsk village of Kalikino. But her awareness of her son's duty to the motherland and the peoples and understanding of his international duty clearly came through in her words.

Nikolay Ponomarev is from the same regiment as the poet and hero Lieutenant Aleksandr Stobva. The officer died saving his comrades' lives. For this deed on fraternal Afghan soil he was posthumously awarded the Order of Lenin. The unit carefully cherishes the lieutenant's collected poems "A Song Is Stronger Than a Storm."

The commanders and political workers keep many letters from soldiers' mothers. By various routes letters reached me in Kabul from Antonina Borisovna Gerasimova from the city of Noginsk near Moscow and Naubakhar Mukhamedovna Bulyakova from the Uzbek settlement of Gakkabag. Their sons Aleksandr and Alfat--the first is a mortarman, the second a driver--have shown themselves to be true internationalist servicemen. Both have been awarded the Order of the Red Star.

Next spring Naubakhar Mukhamedovna will see her younger son enter the army. And her main wish is for him to serve honorably and vigilantly. And she made a request: Tell our dear soldiers, sergeants, warrant officers, and officers to serve in Afghanistan as our motherland requires. I know things are not easy for our sons. But they are Soviet soldiers, and we, their mothers, are with them. And we are proud of them.

It was said quite simply, but you could not put it better.

When I returned to Kabul from leave I decided to find out why Private Ponomarev had not written to his mother for so long.

Here is what Senior Lieutenant N. Ustyakin told me about those 5 days.

The road wound like a gray ribbon into the mountains. On the left was a wall of stone. Sheer and high: If you looked up your panama would fall off your head. On the right was the turbulent mountain river Konar.

Only a small section of road was in sight. The rest was hidden around the turn, and there was no knowing what awaited you there. Each step was full of surprises.

Platoon Commander Senior Lieutenant Akhat Muratov "picked out" the road on the map with his pencil, ringed the population centers through which the

convoy would have to pass, and marked the sections of the road where "anything can be expected."

The route was a familiar one, and the convoy support group knew its task. Everything was as usual. The only difference was the type of convoy that day. Except for the escorting combat vehicles, it was almost entirely made up of "(burabakhavki)." That is the name given here to the Afghan drivers' trucks with built-up sides and "captain's bridges" over the cabs, covered with metal patterns and chains, and painted various colors.

The freight that the "(burabakhayki)" were carrying was special. It was products for the population, building materials, and fertilizers. People were waiting for them in the villages. But without an escort capable of preventing a dushman attack on the convoy, and if one did happen, of rebuffing the dushmans, it was hard to expect the trip to be a success. And so the local authorities turned to the Soviet servicemen for help.

...The vehicle with the mine clearer was first to get under way. Heavy rollers pressed into the stony earth. If they came across a mine it would blow up, provided it was without "secrets."

But nevertheless the most reliable "sweeper" is man--the sapper. Just now Private Aleksandr Malikov, armed with a probe, along with his comrades removed two Italian mines from what was apparently a most "harmless" spot.

The detonation of these mines was evidently meant to be the signal for the dushmans to start firing on the convoy. Hiding in the rocks, they realized too late that their "surprises" had been discovered: The sappers had done this quickly and unnoticed. Consequently they opened fire on the convoy not in unison but individually, which made it possible for the motorized riflemen headed by Lieutenant Vladimir Byzhov to take effective counter-measures in good time.

...They made a short halt to let the convoy "close up" and give the drivers instructions again. A village lay ahead, and it was well known that this stretch of road was especially dangerous.

"We need your help now," Senior Lieutenant Muratov affectionately patted the ears of Pirat, the mine-detecting dog. All he said to its handler, Nikolay Ponomarev, was: "Forward!"

The sappers followed the handler, probing every inch of road, every stone, and every hollow.

Pirat circled one spot and sat down. His head facing the dangerous find. Ponomarev raised his hand: The group stopped.

On the jagged, cracked asphalt near the dog's pawmarks Nikolay examined a fresh patch of tar under a layer of dust. The sapper's practiced eye spotted that there were trails covered with tar and carefully camouflaged leading from the patch to the roadside. It meant there was more than one mine.

...Barely peeping out from the gutters, the drivers, having stopped at a safe distance, followed the Soviet sappers' work from afar. The dangerous find was soon rendered harmless.

Nikolay Ponomarev and Pirat set to work again with the utmost caution inspecting the adjoining stretch of road. Three more times the dog sat down on the road. Three more times the sappers extracted skillfully masked plastic mines.

...The village with its colorful bazaar right by the roadside was already in sight. There was half a kilometer to go to the first houses when shots rang out. The bullets hit the gasoline tanks. Two grain trucks caught fire. Privates Stepan Bogdanets and Bakhadyr Yunusov rushed with fire extinguishers to save the grain. The Belorussian and the Uzbek saved the grain that the Afghans were waiting for.

The fire died down; the freight had not been harmed. True, the trucks did have to be towed.

The dushmans usually mine ambush sites. Knowing bandit tactics Senior Lieutenant Muratov again sent the sappers on ahead. Private Amatbay Yuldashev's attention was drawn to a small stretch of road that had been neatly swept. A few accurate prods with the probe found a mine.

Junior Sergeant Varazdat Asaturyan decided to investigate the area around a crater and alongside a truck, overturned in an explosion, from the Afghan convoy that had preceded them without sappers. The dushmans usually place two or three mines alongside one another: As trucks pull out to pass the truck that has been blown up they run over the other mines. Intuition, or to be more accurate, professional instinct, did not mislead the sapper...

Finally they reached their destination. It can be said that the route was covered safely, without any injuries or losses. The sappers had piled up their trophies in one of the trucks--12 now harmless mines.

(Gatnazay), the senior Afghan driver, thanked Muratov by three times--the Afghan custom--touching cheeks with the Soviet officer.

Then came the return journey. Also with a convoy. But now with a different one. But just as difficult and dangerous. The sappers, among whom was Private Ponomarev, only returned to their positions after 5 days. It goes without saying that they received no letters on the road.

...I did not immediately get to the garrison where my fellow villager Ponomarev serves in a sapper subunit. It was only recently that I saw Private Ponomarev. I told him the latest news from the village. I asked how his mother was.

"She writes," replied Nikolay, and then added: "She is probably waiting for a letter from me every day."

CSO: 1801/134

AFGHANISTAN

BAGHLAN PROVINCE UNDER SOVIET CONTROL

PM081306 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 4 Dec 83 p 3

[Report by O. Shabalina: "Along the Road of Hope"]

[Text] Baghlan-Moscow--The 5th anniversary of the signing of the USSR-DRA Treaty on Friendship, Good-Neighborliness, and Cooperation is 5 December.

Baghlan is the center of one of Afghanistan's northern provinces. From there a wide asphalt highway leads into the heartland of the country. There is typical Afghan scenery on both sides of the road--unending ridges of ash-gray mountains slashed by the folds of ravines. Against the backdrop of these masses of stone the occasional little villages clinging to the feet of the mountains, their adobe houses huddled together, seem especially small. The road winds north through these almost inaccessible regions--toward the Soviet border. Its importance for the national economy of "the land of mountains," which has no railroads, is hard to overestimate. A busy stream of freight moves along the highway in both directions. The Afghans call it "the road of hopes."

Now, at a troubled time for the republic, when gangs of dushman mercenaries sent in from abroad continue to operate on its territory, and movement along many of the country's roads is not safe, the Baghlan-Kabul route works without interruption. Big red and white intercity buses, heavy trucks gaily decorated with ribbons and little bells, a nippy Volkswagen probably stuffed with no less than eight people...On the roadside, paying no attention to the roaring traffic, a little donkey carrying a mountain dweller dressed in a snow-white turban marches along unperturbed, female figures swathed in chadors pass by, and noisy groups of kids run by. The bandits are wary of acting openly, preferring to operate by stealth and carry out clandestine sabotage. They try to intimidate the peaceful population by brutally attacking PDPA activists, Communist Youth League leaders, and the leaders of industrial enterprise. A delayed action mine was planted under the car of one of the leaders of the ("Guri") power region, and it was only thanks to vigilance of local (KHAD) (the Afghan security service) operatives that it was possible to prevent the crime. (Mirzo), a young security organ operative from the neighboring province of Qonduz, was brutally tortured by the bandits. But whatever sophisticated methods of clandestine warfare the mercenaries and their foreign patrons

resort to, they cannot hamper the formation of the new life on Afghan soil. The inhabitants of Pol-e Khomri recall the enthusiasm that accompanied the celebration of the 4th anniversary of the April Revolution. Columns of thousands of workers, peasants, soldiers of the People's Army, and students from the technical college--representatives of all sections of the population--filled the gaily decorated city streets. Millions of Afghans are ready to defend the gains of the April Revolution with weapon in hand.

Baghlan is one of the most industrially developed provinces in the country. Coal, processing, and light industry enterprises are concentrated here, and a cement plant, the ("Kar-Kar") coal mines, the ("Nasadhzi") textile factory, and a hydroelectric station built with the aid of Soviet specialists are in operation.

A major new project for the republic--a support-building combine--has been commissioned. (Mokhammed Gulchin), director general of the ("Guri") power region and a graduate of the Leningrad Polytechnical Institute, told me:

"Our combine will produce supports for the USSR-Kabul power transmission line that is now under construction. The power transmission line will open up new prospects for opening up the region's natural riches. Electricity will be brought to many towns and villages and the zone of irrigated land will be expanded. The construction of the combine has been a real school for training many dozens of skilled workers."

(M. Gulchin) spoke with special warmth of the Soviet engineers who helped to install equipment--M. Khachatryan, K. Pram-Balyk, and N. Klepach.

"For us Afghans," (M. Gulchin) says, "Lenin's remarks on the electrification of the entire country, and on peace as a necessary condition for fulfilling the tasks facing the country are a most specific program for building the new life and a happy future."

CSO: 1801/133

AFGHANISTAN

CORRESPONDENT DESCRIBES WORK OF UNIT IN DRA

PM201739 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Dec 83 Second Edition p 3

[Special correspondent Colonel V. Filatov dispatch: "That Front-Line Feeling"]

[Text] Limited Contingent of Soviet Troops in Afghanistan--Unit X, part of the limited contingent of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, earned the mark "four" during the last training year. Four times it was awarded a challenge red banner...

Marks are statistics. Sometimes statistics need explanation and deciphering. So what about the four marks earned by unit X?

Well, for instance, in comparison with 1980 the number of those rewarded for their successes in combat and political training in the unit has tripled. By categories it reads: ensigns--up to 10 times, sergeants--up 4 times, and soldiers--up 6 times... And the number of violations of military discipline in comparison with last year has halved. Party organizations have been set up in all subunits.

The military unit is deployed in a valley through which a stream flows, and this is somewhat reminiscent of our Urals area. From the stream terraces of vineyards scramble up to the heights, and this spot is reminiscent both of our Transcaucasus and of Moldavia. Not far off rear the sharp peaks of sheer mountains that are the spit and image of our Kirghizia or Turkmenia. If you take a really good look and if you really want to, you can find here at odd moments something of our non-Chernozem Zone, Transcarpathia, and Crimean hills.

It is most important, for instance, for a Urals man to find something of the Urals, a Transcaucasian something of his native area, and for people to recognize here the Carpathians, and Tyumen, and the Baltic... Where the motherland starts--this is an eternal question. The main thing is to find the right answer. It is to this that party political work in the unit is largely directed.

International aid is sometimes linked with the concept of the front line [peredniy kray]. The front line of struggle. There is a front line and

there is a front-line feeling. It is very well developed, for instance, in border guards--it is when your whole fatherland lies behind you. But there are situations when the border guards are far from the front line, and the front line itself, according, of course, to the significance of the situation, is manned by motorized riflemen and tank troops, pilots, sappers, and drivers--then the front-line feeling must possess them in the same way that it possesses the border guards who have the whole fatherland behind them.

Leonid Sterinovich, deputy political affairs commander of an engineers and sapper company, has already been part of our limited military contingent in Afghanistan for 6 months. He is a blue-eyed, blond, and energetic Belorussian. He is virtually the same age as his men, but even in fatigues it would be obvious that he is the senior, wise, authoritative, and respected person here. He says:

"In the fall experienced servicemen went back to the reserve from our company. Men worth their weight in gold! What a schooling they had had! When the counterrevolution started to wage mine warfare as well, we sappers had, as they say, quite a bit of work to do. What should be noted here? Well, for instance, American mines need one approach, Italian mines quite a different one, and Pakistani mines cannot be treated like either the American or Italian ones. And there are also Egyptian mines, West German, Chinese, British... Mines, OK, we can and do dismantle them, but there are still the instructors, different instructors: the Americans teach the dushmans in their way, the Pakistanis in their way, and the Egyptians in their way... In short, our soldiers here must know thoroughly the tactics, style, cunning, and trickery of the various armies of the world... Grand lads! What a schooling they have had!"

In this kind of situation the front-line feeling is fostered, and life, service, combat and political training, and competition go on. Just as in the units of all our military districts. With the single distinction that a lot is learned here not in what is called a situation as near as possible to a combat situation but in the most real situation there is: be it the guard at his post, the driver behind the wheel, or, for instance, that same political worker Senior Lieutenant L. Sterinovich.

Sterinovich has been here 6 months and for 6 months he has been keeping a diary of his work. Day after day. A scrupulous description of each mine-clearing operation. There is method in whatever he writes. "Why do you do it?" I asked. "It is not so much for me as for the man who will replace me," he replied. "When my replacement comes I will give him my job and this diary so that he doesn't start everything from scratch, from zero..."

This is the slogan of the company where Senior Lt L. Sterinovich is deputy commander: "On each mine-clearing operation act like the heroes of our regiment acted in the Great Patriotic War." Within the unit the "combat experience school" and the "courage school" are at work. In these schools servicemen of leading specialties exchange experience.

To amass experience, generalize it, understand it, and pass it on to the young is the main concern today of all commanders and political workers. Continuity is not a link between the experience of a first, second, and third person. Continuity is the condensed experience of a first, second, and third person passed on to the fourth, who uses it and adds his experience to it before passing it on to a fifth. They say in the East: "He who goes ahead paves the way for him who follows."

During combat training prime attention is devoted here to the individual training of the soldier, sergeant, ensign, and officer. Conditions dictate that it be put to the sternest test in each individual. From the very beginning the youngsters are taught to quickly and reliably dig trenches and shelters in the rocky soil, to organize fire systems and install engineering constructions, and to fire from a height and on the move. Special stress is laid on the ability to conduct combat operations by night. In the unit today there are experienced methodologists in teaching the silent operation of subunits in the mountains, sharp-wittedness, and military strategems... All this work had an immediate effect on results: the number of excellent marks this year has almost quadrupled compared with last year.

Whenever there is talk about evaluations and marks, mention should also be made of the work of commanders and political workers. An Afghan Army military unit is deployed in the vicinity. Only 2 years ago it was not considered a leading unit. Our servicemen set about helping the Afghan warriors. They started learning together and acquiring practical skills on the firing range together. And they did not stop there. The Soviet servicemen started teaching the Afghans Russian, and the Afghans taught the Russians the Dari and Pashto languages. In a short time great successes were achieved; at any rate today there are no language problems between these two units. We fitted out a Soviet-Afghan friendship room, and the Afghans did an Afghan-Soviet room. How was all this reflected in the training of the Afghan military unit's personnel? During firing range tests this year the unit received a solid four-out-of-five mark.

And what does a mark of four mean? Primarily--great effectiveness in the battle against the counterrevolution.

The Afghans say: "Friendship among peoples equals wealth." The firmer the friendship between Soviet and Afghan servicemen becomes, the more frantically the April Revolution's enemies rage. Wherever bullets and mines are powerless, deceit, forgery, and slander come into play. The main aim is to disunite, separate, sow discord and mistrust, and breed doubt in people's souls. How is it done? In the foulest and vilest way. Here is an example. In the northeast province of Badakhshan a dushman group donned Soviet uniforms, burst into a settlement, carried out a massacre, and rounded it off by blowing up the mosque. However, the provocation failed. Scarcely had the dushmans cleared out of the settlement than a rally was held at which the inhabitants condemned those who carried out the provocation. The time when it was possible to dupe and deceive the peasants is passing. An increasing number of Afghans are coming to realize who is the enemy and who is their motherland's friend.

In another settlement--(Shigal)--dushman cutthroats gathered all the inhabitants together and read them allegedly procured Soviet instructions of how Afghan husbands are to be separated from their wives and children. Unfortunately, albeit in isolated instances but nevertheless, these black methods sometimes work, as in (Shigal) where certain crazed fanatics nearly decided to kill their wives and children simply to keep them out of Russian hands. Not only are these types of preachers and "witnesses" of how the Russians allegedly blow up mosques used, but also numerous leaflets delivered by secret paths from Peshawar, and various types of radio broadcasts. Of course, all this needs to be exposed without delay.

A special detachment has been set up in the unit called the propaganda and agitation detachment. Its commander, Major A. Fedorovskiy, says:

"By agreement with the local authorities and with their direct participation we regularly carry out missions to settlements and nomad camps. The missions are both long--up to 20 days--and short--leaving in the morning and returning in the evening. The detachment comprises around 20 men. The detachment is equipped with a mobile autoclub truck, a broadcasting [zvukoveshchatelnaya] station, we have a video recorder, a duplicator, and amplifying apparatus. The latter we need mainly for...the women. So, what happens when our detachment arrives in some far-flung settlement. In a flash all the men and children gather round--but not a single woman. Their religious laws forbid them to appear in public, especially with strangers present. Where are they at that moment? In huts and behind walls. So we switch on our amplifiers so that everyone can hear us. There are three (?translators) in the detachment. During the trip we are assigned not less than two doctors, one of whom is without fail a woman. Why a woman? Because, when we arrive in a settlement, apart from anything else we open a medical center. With the men and the children, as I have already said, there are no problems, but it is a little more complicated with the women--this is where our woman doctors come in, they find out which house holds a sick woman and go there to help...

Our servicemen counter the black propaganda of the counterrevolution with the truth about the land of the Soviets and Soviet soldiers. Apart from this detachment, there are other groups dealing with the same thing as the detachment. There have been around 300 hours of broadcasting [zvukoveshchaniy~] and around 70 rallies in the past 6 months alone.

"What sort of reception do you get?" Maj Fedorovskiy cuts in. "It differs. After all, you may get on the wrong end of a dushman bullet or a mine. But the good-byes are always the same: when they see us off they ply us with tea. But the best reward for us is when they say: 'Come again'..."

Fedorovskiy himself is a political worker born in Kurgan Oblast. His father is a driver and his mother a pensioner. There are nine children in the family. Two of Fedorovskiy's brothers are serving in the army: one is a lieutenant colonel, the other a corporal. His remaining brothers and sisters work at the sovkhos and at the mine, in short Fedorovskiy is from the salt of the earth--the village. He himself has two daughters and his wife works at a plant...

The Afghans see him as a man who has been through a great school of life, and therefore every word from his is truth itself.

Someone may ask: Well, why should we prove the obvious? Good question. However, we must prove it. Because the enemy is sophisticated and cunning. Because not everyone in Afghanistan is as yet capable of interpreting what is happening. And what kind of enemy is it? The kind for which there is nothing sacred. Neither God, nor Allah, nor the Bible, nor the Koran.

And in this situation the stream of applications requesting admission to the party from unit X has increased considerably. Some 38 percent of those accepted are from combat subunits, more than half of them are privates and sergeants, and some of them have been awarded orders and medals for the excellent way they have carried out their international duty in Afghanistan.

Here is the application of Private Aleksandr Kondrashov, machinegunner from the 3d motorized rifle platoon: "I request to be accepted as a candidate member of the CPSU... I will worthily uphold the honor of an internationalist serviceman..." He is being recommended by Senior Lieutenant A. Lukyanov, deputy commander of the motorized rifle platoon for political affairs. In his recommendation he writes, in particular, about Kondrashov: "He has shown courage and heroism in carrying out his international duty to give help to the Afghan people. He has a string of commendations from command. He was nominated for the 'For Combat Service' medal." Private Kondrashov's second recommendation was given by Senior Lieutenant A. Sheremetyev, platoon commander.

And here is what Sergeant Habib Abdualimov wrote in his application: "I request to be accepted as a candidate member of the CPSU since, having devoted my life to the service of the motherland in the ranks of the Soviet Army, I cannot conceive of it without the party..." He is being recommended by Corporal V. Samusenko and Major J. Obyskalov. The officer, in particular, wrote in H. Abdualimov's recommendation: "He has repeatedly participated in giving help to the Afghan people in defense of the gains of the April Revolution. For the steadfastness and courage he has shown and for his loyalty to the military oath he has been awarded the 'For Combat Service' medal. He has a good knowledge of the DRA people's language, which gives him the opportunity to carry out agitation and propaganda work among the local populace."

Here is the application of Senior Lieutenant Isakadi Amirov, commander of a motor transport company: "I request to be accepted as a CPSU member since I wish within the ranks of Lenin's party to fulfill its historic decisions and defend our socialist motherland..." He is being recommended by Senior Lieutenant N. Yeroshin, secretary of the party organization, and Ensign A. Novichkov, company sergeant major. One of the recommendations says about Amirov: "In a complicated situation he shows himself to be a decisive, courageous, and skilled commander. He has taken part in more than 80 missions and has personally headed convoys to remote settlements. For the courage and heroism he has shown in giving international help to the Afghan people, he has been awarded the order 'For Service to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces' 3d class."

I saw many such character assessments, recommendations, and applications. Great people. What a schooling they have had. The front-line schooling.

Unit X of the limited military contingent in Afghanistan obtained a solid four on the results of the past training year. Four marks. A year's service. A statistic made up of courage and valor, duty and life, and the struggle for communist ideals. An obelisk in honor of the unbreakable friendship between Afghan and Soviet servicemen was recently unveiled in the district center nearest the spot where the unit is deployed.

It is for those four marks for the 1983 training year.

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AFGHANISTAN

SOVIET HELICOPTERS AIRLIFT GRAIN TO AFGHAN VILLAGES

PM091356 [Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 December 1983 Second Edition front-pages a "Photo Reportage" by correspondent Lieutenant Colonel Y. Skrizhalin entitled "Flights of Courage" under the rubric "On the Land of Afghanistan." The article is accompanied by two photographs by V. Sukhodolskiy, one of which shows two helicopters in flight above clouds and appears to have been taken through the window of a third helicopter, while the other shows Major A. Skobov, Senior Lieutenant Technical Service V. Podkolzin, and Major V. Gunchenko inside a helicopter cabin. The article reads as follows:

"Badakhshan Province. The extreme northeast of Afghanistan. The most mountainous part of the country. Impregnable ridges, ravines, glaciers, eternal snows. There are hardly any valleys here where grain would thrive.

"From time immemorial livestock raisers set out for the agricultural provinces of Takhar and Qonduz on the eve of winter to stock up with wheat and corn for the year. That journey took several months. Moreover, the buyers of food frequently fell prey to robbers. And now the number of robbers on the roads has been swollen by dushmans who call themselves 'defenders of Islam.'

"This fall many inhabitants of the Badakhshan districts of (Darvaz), (Khogon), and (Zeybak)--from the most remote mountain regions--gathered in Qonduz. Having bought grain, they could not bring themselves to set out on the return journey: they feared bandits from among the 'fighters for faith.'

"It is not hard to understand the peaceful livestock raisers: the dushmans might attack them, unarmed as they were, at any moment on their way home. So, they would return home after a long, difficult journey empty-handed--without livestock, without money, and without grain. And they might not return at all: Human life is cheap as far as the 'defenders of Islam' are concerned. In addition, having taken travelers prisoner, they sometimes drive them to their lairs and under fear of death make them join the gang and struggle against the people's power.

"It was then that Afghan comrades turned to the command of the Soviet limited military contingent for assistance. The crews of 'air trucks'--powerful MI-6 helicopters--received the task of making 'grain' flights. The thing is that there are practically no roads in the mountains, and helicopter pilots could deliver freight directly to settlements and tens of times more quickly than road transport.

"But the dushmans do not care what sort of aircraft or helicopter is in the air or what sort of freight is on board. They immediately open fire at every opportunity. It was decided to fly along ravines in the mountainous region--which is known to be a difficult thing.

"The Afghan livestock raisers were in a hurry to load sacks of grain into the helicopters' freight compartments. They badly missed their families, who were living half-starving without the breadwinners. Taking into consideration the importance and complexity of the mission, the best crews were sent to transport the grain and the Badakhshan men.

"The helicopters of Major Anatoliy Skobov and his wingman, Major Viktor Voronin, were loaded 'to the brim,' as the saying goes. The greater part of the route was unknown, for it had not been flown before. They decided to make the first flight via Feyzabad. It was a longer way, but it seemed more convenient and somewhat safer: the terrain is relatively familiar as far as Feyzabad. They flew on to their destination normally, as the helicopter pilots later sparingly put it.

"When they returned to Qonduz for the next batch of freight and people, Captain Aleksandr Kotov, the leading crew's navigator, worked out a different route--a direct one. It was far shorter but passed over unfamiliar mountain massifs, where dushmans were hiding.

"'On the other hand, it will use less fuel, and so we will take additional freight on board,' the navigator explained his proposal. Major A. Skobov agreed with him. He knew it was possible to fly even to the end of the world with Kotov, not just to unknown Badakhshan.

"And once again, with rotor blades cleaving the air with a ringing whistle, the MI-6's take off, gain height in an ascending spiral, and head east, where the almost inaccessible mountains and tangled ravines will test their skill, courage, and strength of spirit and where people impatiently await them."

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